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ADL slams plan to release Holocaust archive 'dirty list'

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Abraham Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League, yesterday assailed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's adviser on the Holocaust, Bobby Brown, for his plan to release a "dirty list" of more than a dozen countries and organizations that have failed to open their Holocaust-era archives.

"For us to engage in blacklists, when we have so frequently through history been the object of blacklists, is unacceptable," Foxman said in an interview. "This whole issue is becoming a football for people's ego needs."

Brown said that next week, at the US-sponsored international conference on Holocaust assets, he will release the "dirty list," which includes the Vatican, the KGB, the British Intelligence agency MI-5, and Italian insurance giant Assicurazioni Generali, which also owns Migdal.

The story was first reported in *The Jerusalem Post*. "To jump them in such a way, in a public ultimatum, a public challenge, is counterproductive and irresponsible," Foxman said. "To link the Vatican files to the Generali files, to KGB files is inappropriate and offensive."

He said he is concerned that the list and its public release at such a forum would have an impact on Israel's bilateral relations and on local Jewish communities in Europe.

More than 40 nations, fixated last year on Nazi gold, will turn their attention next week to looted art, unpaid insurance policies, and European Jewish communal properties confiscated by the Nazis.

"Forty-four countries that 'were touched by World War II or its aftermath' will convene for the Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets and attempt 'to forge an international consensus on how governments and other entities can cooperate to redress the injustices,'" Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat said yesterday at a briefing for the foreign press.



**Airport opening**  
The pilot of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's personal plane greets onlookers yesterday after landing for the first time at Gaza International Airport. Story, Page 2. (AP)

AOL buys Netscape for \$4.2b.

By ERIC AUCHARD

NEW YORK (Reuters) - America Online will buy Internet software pioneer Netscape Communications Corp. for \$4.2 billion in a deal involving Sun Microsystems Inc., the companies announced yesterday, bringing together three of Microsoft's fiercest competitors.

The all-stock deal reorganizing the Internet business landscape came just a day after AOL, the world's No. 1 online service, and Netscape, whose browser software made the Internet accessible to a mass audience, confirmed they were in talks. Under a related three-year deal

with Sun, the Palo Alto, Calif., company - whose Java Internet programming language is now seen as the greatest threat to Microsoft's software dominance - will develop and market electronic commerce software that makes it easy to set up

**Purchase enables AOL to take on Microsoft, Page 12**

shop in cyberspace. Sun also makes network computers and powerful computer workstations, and AOL agreed to buy about \$500 million in Sun hardware through 2002, the companies said. Sun committed to pay more than \$350 million in marketing, advertising, and other fees to AOL over the next three years.

Levy poised to rejoin coalition

Expected to get infrastructure or finance portfolio

By SARAH HONG

A tentative decision approving the Geshet Party's reentry into Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition is expected this morning. A deal was reported close to conclusion late last night.

Netanyahu and Geshet leader David Levy were also to have exchanged their first words during the current reconciliation process in a phone conversation late last night.

Meanwhile, the National Religious Party is fuming at what it regards as Netanyahu's attempt to intimidate it by coopting Geshet, after having previously given it an ultimatum to toe his line. The Likud is also in turmoil due to rumors that Levy is on his way back into the Likud, and that he will be allowed to add 400 new members to the 2,700-member central committee.

Netanyahu was due to take off for Europe this morning. His flight to Switzerland may be delayed and, according to some reports, he put Communications Minister Limor Livnat on standby to substitute for him if need be.

Levy is to summon his Knesset faction this morning to decide on whether to reenter the coalition. The fact that Levy is summoning the three MKs left in his faction (himself included) indicates that the decision is a foregone conclusion.

In Geshet the final word rests with Levy, and those close to him - including his brother MK Maxim Levy and MK Yehuda Lankri - believe he has decided to again join forces with Netanyahu. The two banded together after a fierce rivalry on the eve of the 1996 elections. Last January, Levy resigned as foreign minister in a huff, ostensibly over the budget vote.

The deal facilitating his return was hatched by Avigdor Lieberman, former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, and Levy loyalist David Appel. The recent local elections were a grave disappointment for Levy, wiping out his hopes for an independent Geshet ticket.

The coalition and possibly a return to the Likud are now his lifeline. Netanyahu is in dire need of support in the Knesset following the loss of his majority after he signed the Wye Memorandum.

Appel called on Netanyahu yesterday afternoon and a more detailed offer was relayed to Levy, though not in writing.

The NRP regards the Levy episode as a continuation of the ultimatum Netanyahu had served on the party Monday night, when he demanded to know to what extent the NRP's nine MKs support the government. He wanted an answer yesterday. However, the NRP officially informed him that he would get the reply only in five weeks.

The party's two ministers - Yitzhak Levy and Shaul Yablon - had summoned a number of MKs to deliberate the ultimatum, but all that emerged was a sense of umbrage and the decision that there would be no answer until the NRP central committee meets at the end of December, prior to the next scheduled withdrawal under the Wye accord, to review the situation and review the party's stand regarding the pending early elections bills.

Levy said that Netanyahu's ultimatum "was unseemly and resulted from bad advice from those who do not have the NRP's best interests at heart" - taken as a reference to Shas leader Aryeh Deri.

MK Hanan Porat, one of the NRP's most militant opponents to Wye, accused Netanyahu of having "broken Israel's ideological spine" and of having "shattered the Likud. Now he seeks to fragment the NRP, too. This is colossal gall."

Likud dissident Dan Meridor confirmed that Netanyahu had tried to coopt him as well, but said that "I am not ready to join forces with that man. I will not change my mind."

Danna Harman adds: At a breakfast meeting with foreign ambassadors, Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon said he favors expanding the government.

"I have always been for unity, and I often bring up this matter with my friend and colleague Shimon Peres," Sharon reportedly said.

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Holocaust heirloom to be auctioned for Sheba Hospital

By JUDY SEGAL

A magnificent diamond and emerald necklace, representing the entire fortune of a French Jew who hid it from the Nazis in his kitchen and recovered it after returning from Auschwitz, will be auctioned off in New York to benefit elderly patients at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer.

He regarded the jewelry as his murdered wife's "gift from heaven," said Avi Pazner, the former ambassador to Paris and now chairman of UIA. Pazner was instrumental in ensuring that the proceeds from the April sale - as much as \$1 million - would go to the hospital's geriatric department.

Fearful of the Nazi invasion of France in 1940, a well-off Jewish industrialist and his wife hid their young son with Christians and sold all their property to buy jewelry.

They had them made into a necklace, which the wife wore under her clothing at all times.

Burg distances Jewish Agency from criticism of Argentina's Menem

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

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## NEWS

in brief

### Cyprus protests Turkish overflights

Cyprus said yesterday it has protested to the UN and to international aviation authorities over repeated recent violations of its airspace by Turkish air force planes.

One protest was over flights by Turkish planes bound for Israel and another was over last week's landing of Turkish planes in the Turkish-occupied north of the island during military exercises, Foreign Ministry spokesman Kornelios Korneliou said.

Cypriot Defense Minister Yiannakis Omirou had complained on Monday about these flights, saying a formal protest should be made to Israel, as well as to the UN and aviation authorities.

But Korneliou said Israel was left out of the protest because no Israeli planes were involved. *AP*

### Palestinian prisoners continue hunger strike

A hunger strike by a group of Palestinian prisoners entered a third day yesterday in what one called a battle for "freedom or death" backed by sympathy protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It was not clear how many inmates were participating in the strike at Megiddo Prison.

The prisoners are protesting against Israel's refusal to free them as part of the Wye agreement. Prisoners also have accused the Palestinian leadership of not pressing Israel hard enough to secure their release. *Reuters*

### Anti-incitement group meets

The trilateral anti-incitement group met yesterday for the first time. Yoash Tsiddon, the head of the Israeli delegation, told reporters that the anti-incitement declaration put out last week by the Palestinians was "insufficient."

At the end of the three-hour session in Jerusalem, the delegations agreed to hold their next meeting in Gaza on December 2. All groups are to bring a working definition of the term incitement, so as to better coordinate their efforts. *Danna Harman*

### Palestinians clash with troops

Hundreds of Palestinians marched yesterday in the funeral procession of a 23-year-old university student who was found beaten to death near a Jewish settlement.

Two dozen of them broke away from the march and threw stones and empty bottles at IDF troops, who responded with rubber bullets, wounding one.

Palestinians blamed settlers for the death of Sabah Abu Saeineh, whose body was found Saturday in an abandoned building near Neveh Daniel. However, police spokeswoman Linda Meaushin said there is no reason to believe settlers were involved and that it is suspected Palestinian assailants were responsible. *AP*

### Committee on violence beginning work today

The committee established to look into growing acts of violence among children and ways to fight it, appointed by Education Minister Yitzhak Levy and headed by Maj.-Gen. (res.) Matan Vilna'i begins its work at a public meeting today. Committee members will then begin to travel throughout the country to gather data on the scope of the violence.

Vilna'i called on the public to report acts of violence and present proposals on how to deal with it. The committee can be reached at (02) 5603629. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

### Elderly woman killed crossing the road in Haifa

Leah Turnbovitch, 91, was killed yesterday when she was struck by a car while crossing a street in Haifa. A 77-year-old woman was killed crossing the same street on Monday. *Jim*

### B'nai B'rith nominates Hussein for Nobel

B'nai B'rith International has nominated Jordan's King Hussein for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. In a letter to the Nobel committee, the group suggested that his assistance in the Wye Plantation talks had earned him serious consideration. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Hanukka food drive under way

A campaign to collect non-perishable food (such as rice, pasta, oil, canned fruits and vegetables, and sweets) for the poor will be held between December 6 and 10, a week before Hanukka. It will be organized by the volunteer organization Latet and Sun Microsystems-Israel.

Latet representatives will distribute the food among voluntary organizations and the needy. Other high-tech companies participating are Aladdin Knowledge Systems, EDS, Silicon Graphics, and National Semiconductor; others are invited to join by calling Suzy Marks at Sun Microsystems (09-9541122, extension 201) or Ella Margalit of Aladdin at 03-6362223. *Judy Siegel*

# PA gets lift from airport opening

By BEN LYNNFIELD

The Palestinian Authority yesterday scored a major gain with the opening of Gaza International Airport, a step that enhances its standing by offering Palestinians a tangible fruit of peace and a taste of future sovereignty.

"This is a great feeling, like a wedding. We have an airport!" said Khalil Jarnal, a flight engineer for Palestine Airways.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat shuttled back and forth to the tarmac to greet nine planes that touched down at 30 minute intervals, each to applause and dancing.

"This is a preparation for the declaration of the Palestinian state," Arafat said.

For Gaza Strip residents normally enjoying little access to the outside world, it was a day filled with promise for closer ties with the international community. First to

land was an Egypt Air A320 Airbus, with actor Adel Imam smiling and waving to the crowd as he disembarked.

Other planes followed from Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Spain, and the European Community. Arafat's plane made a low pass and then landed on behalf of Palestinian Airways. Its pilot and co-pilot descended to chants of *Allah akbar* (God is the greatest).

But the festive atmosphere was not shared by all. A group of 40 relatives of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel stood at the edge of the red carpet for dignitaries, many of them shouting and chanting for the release of their loved ones.

The action embarrassed the PA, which is under fire over its handling of the prisoner releases, especially after last week's release virtually excluded prisoners involved in political activities or terror attacks. "We're happy about the airport,

but we need our prisoners released," said Sawan Abu Eid, before she and the other demonstrators were forcibly relocated by security forces to a more remote position. Plainclothes security also removed a reporter who interviewed the families, and tried to confiscate his notebook.

PA officials say they are trying their best to gain prisoner releases and blame Israel for their lack of success.

The airport opened after three years of PA-Israel negotiations, the most recent of which were at last month's Wye summit, when arrangements were finalized.

According to Fayez Zaidan, the PA official in charge of the airport, the international identifier code is LVGZ rather than LLGZ preferred by the Israelis. LL is the Israeli code. Zaidan said the PA had chosen the V as a symbol of victory.

The airport, situated along the

Egyptian border, will cost \$250 million when it is completed. It will enable Gaza residents to fly abroad without obtaining entry permits for Israel. It also promises to help the local economy by enabling the direct import and export of goods. But its utility to most travelers from the West Bank will depend on safe passage arrangements to Gaza, which have yet to be implemented.

PA officials had been looking to the opening of the airport, the safe passages, and the prisoner releases as a means of showing skeptical public opinion that negotiations with Israel are bearing fruit.

"We need the support of public opinion," PA cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel-Rahman said during a recent interview. "These things can show that instead of bombings there is another way - to sit at the table and talk."

A PA banner visible yesterday on the road from the airport to Khan

Yunis said: "Gaza International Airport is a great gain of the peace process."

Zaidan said 99 percent of the airport's operations would be in Palestinian hands, with only one Israeli involvement in security and identity checks. He said the Palestinian Airways hoped to begin commercial flights next week with service to Cairo, Amman, and Jidda.

Ghazi Hamed, the editor of a Hamas affiliated newspaper, termed the airport "a good thing, but not entirely a good thing. It is a kind of achievement for the PA, but the most important difficulty is that it will be under Israeli security domination. The Israelis can check the flights and they can check the garbage. If I want to travel to Egypt, they can say no, and they have the last word."

Readers and AP contributed to this report.

## Second round draws little interest

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The second election round in 34 local authorities yesterday apparently left most residents indifferent as a record low turnout was registered at 758 polls.

Turnout was reportedly only 20-30 percent among Jewish voters, although it was more than 50% in the Arab community.

The elections in Bat Yam attracted the most attention, following Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's unexpected intervention, which lived up to the campaign.

According to a sample poll of Matav in Bat Yam, Shlomo Lahiani received 51.1%, compared to the Likud's Yehoshua Saguy with 48.9%.

In Tirat Carmel, incumbent mayor Arye Tal received 59.1% and his rival Mazliah Farjoun 40.9%, according to a poll, while another sample in Atlit showed Shaul Shamai got 58% and David Amar 42%.

The polls closed at 10 p.m. and the results transferred from each authority to the Interior Ministry's election day headquarters in Jerusalem. Final results are expected well after midnight or this morning.

In less than 24 hours, Netanyahu had withdrawn his support from Saguy, given his backing to Lahiani and then reverted back to Saguy.

Saguy, although he admitted being hurt by Netanyahu's removal of support when the polls predicted he would lose the elections, nevertheless refused to step down from the race at the prime minister's bidding, thus forcing Netanyahu to renew his support.

Lahiani toured Bat Yam with a broad smile on his face and said he was pleased by the support he had received from both Labor

Party leader Ehud Barak and Netanyahu.

Since the first election round two weeks ago Lahiani has formulated a coalition of 14 out of 27 council members - including Meretz, Labor, Yisrael Ba'aliya and Lahiani's own list.

Despite all the interest, by evening only 14% bothered to come to the polls to vote.

The election in Herzliya, which was dubbed the most political, also attracted considerable media attention, perhaps because of the clear showdown between Meretz and the Likud.

The atmosphere heated up in the last few days, as Meretz candidate Yael German received threats on her life and had to conduct

her campaign accompanied by a bodyguard.

Her rival Yehuda Urieli, independent and identified with the Likud, denied any connection to the threats on Gertman's life and said it was all lies.

Scores of haredi yeshiva students from Bnei Brak and Jerusalem arrived in Herzliya yesterday to help Urieli's campaign and "to save Herzliya from Meretz and German, who wants to destroy religion," as they put it. By evening a mere 15% turned out to vote.

The election in Migdal Haemek has become a serious power test for Geshet, whose candidate Jackie Levy lost in Beit She'an.

The Likud, which has been in power here for the past 20 years, tried to lower expectations.

The town's first lady Susanne Amor expressed confidence of her victory after making agreements with Shas and Yisrael Ba'aliya. Activists from all over the country came to help both candidates with election day logistics and arrangements.



### Saving a boy's arm

Twelve-year-old Louis Karish poses yesterday with Dr. Din Ad-El at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem, after his shoulder and arm were saved from cancer. The rare, 16-hour operation, performed here for the first time, followed chemotherapy and required the expertise of orthopedists, microsurgons, and others. Most of the bone in his arm and shoulder joint was removed and replaced with bone from his leg. Karish's hand already functions without any harm to the nerves, doctors said. *(Text: Judy Siegel; photo: Avi Hayoun)*

We regret to announce the death,  
after a lifetime illness, of  
**MICHAEL SAMUEL ISRAEL**  
in New York  
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David Israel and the family  
in Israel and Denmark

With great sorrow and deep regret,  
we announce the passing of our beloved  
mother, grandmother and great-grandmother,  
**ALICE SASSOON**  
The funeral took place on  
Monday, November 23.  
The Family  
Shiva at 41 Rehov Hapigsa, Bayit Vegan.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved  
**TILLA JUDES**  
on November 24, after a long illness  
She will be greatly missed by her children  
Herbert, Ronnie and Arthur Judes and Sharon Block  
and all their families  
The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, November 25,  
at 2:30 p.m., at the new Ra'anana cemetery  
Shiva at 29/21 Rehov Hativat Alexandroni, Ra'anana

## New bill would permit doctors to advertise

By LIAT COLLINS

Doctors, dentists, psychologists, lawyers and veterinarians may soon be able to advertise their services under a government-proposed bill which was discussed in the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

Prostitutes and escort agencies, however, face tighter enforcement of the ban on advertising in newspapers.

Law Committee chairman Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) this week also asked the police to warn newspaper publishers that if they continue to print ads for sex services they will be prosecuted.

The committee debate yesterday focussed on white-collar professionals banned from publishing

their services beyond listings in telephone directories.

Deputy Attorney General Shlomo Guberman told the committee that the sweeping ban is outdated in view of the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation and Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom and would not stand up in court.

He said the right to publicize services and compete is an integral part of occupational freedom. The government's bill would not allow for advertisements which are misleading or which harm the dignity of the profession.

Representatives of the Bar Association and Dentists Association objected to allowing advertising on grounds that the public does not have the means of verifying promotional claims and that it would harm professional standing.

The representatives of the dental profession also said the bill would harm the dentists who work on their own and would find it hard to compete financially with advertisements that group practices will be able to afford.

The representatives of the Association of Midwives supported the bill. They said there are today some 600 licensed midwives in Israel with no way of making their services known to the public.

Porat also favors the bill but said the committee will have to determine the difference between acceptable and unacceptable advertising. He also said the question of enforcement must be anchored in the legislation.

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) also said he supports the idea of allowing these professions to advertise.

### ADL

Continued from Page 1

Eizenstat said that the conference will look at the question of looted art, because "one cannot have free commerce in art, which is a multi-billion dollar industry, and the kind of lending between museums that is central to the cultural exchange between countries if the provenance of World War II era art remains unclear."

The focus on communal property, he said, would assist the Jewish and Catholic communities of Central and Eastern Europe.

"Having the return of these properties is tremendously impor-

tant in reviving religious life in countries where religion was either formally or informally prohibited as a matter of practice," he said. "They've got to have back the very institutions that are necessary to teach children to practice the religion. That is what we are trying to accomplish in the return of property. It is complicated."

### SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Rotary Club will take place today at 1 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Annual scholarship distribution.

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## Mossad operations chief resigns

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Mossad director Ephraim Halevy has accepted the resignation of his chief of operations, known as "Y," following the capture of two Israeli agents in Cyprus earlier this month.

According to reports, further personnel changes are expected, including the appointment of two people, one a former Mossad official, to positions in the operations division. According to the Ha'aretz newspaper, "Y" offered to step down following the November 6 arrest of Udi Hargov and Yigal Damary at the Cypriot fishing village Ziyi.

Earlier this year "Y" asked to resign after five Mossad agents were arrested in Bern, Switzerland, trying to install a "trap" in the building where the wife of Lebanese immigrant Abdullah Zein lives. Halevy reportedly turned down his request, declaring "Y" was not responsible for the foul-up.

Sources close to "Y" said he had been the unit's chief for three years, but for some time had been considering retiring and going into business. With the arrest of the two agents in Cyprus, he reportedly asked Halevy to speed up the process.

The sources said "Y" was not responsible for the botched assassination attempt on Hamas



Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon (left) greets Cypriot Ambassador Enripides Evriviades at a gathering of the diplomatic corps yesterday at Jerusalem's King David Hotel. (Flash 90)

leader Khaled Mashaal in Jordan last year. They added that his resignation did not come as a surprise, as he believed it was up to him to take the blame.

Meanwhile, Cypriot officials have reportedly turned down

requests by the families of Damary and Hargov to visit them in prison. The two are allowed to receive mail from their families and are visited frequently by the Israeli consul in Cyprus.

Their trial is scheduled to begin on December 8, and they face a maximum espionage penalty of 10 years. However, Israeli officials have expressed hope the two will be returned to Israel.

## Netanyahu searches for religious council compromise

By DANNA HARMAN and HAIM SHAPIRO

United Torah Judaism is threatening to quit the coalition if Reform and Conservative Jews are allowed to sit on religious councils, after a High Court ruling last week on the matter.

Also putting pressure on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is Agudath Israel of America, which sent a letter urging him to do all in his power to prevent the non-Orthodox members from joining the councils.

The appointment of "men and women who do not necessarily accept the very religious laws they would be empowered to regulate would create a hodgepodge of standards that can only lead to religious chaos," it said.

In response to the threat, Netanyahu met with MKs from UTJ, the National Religious Party, and Shas yesterday in his office to try and find a compromise.

Netanyahu said after the meeting that he is waiting for a concrete, united suggestion from the parties.

"We did not get into the nitty-gritty of the problem yet, but when I have their suggestions I will take it from there," he said.

Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush (UTJ), who attended the meeting, said that allowing for

Reform and Conservative to sit together with the Orthodox on the same council is "inelegant, inconsiderate, and unacceptable."

"I do not want them to sit in the councils and I will do everything to ensure that they don't sit with us. The prime minister can hear our position, and I very much hope he can find a solution - but Reform Jews sitting on the councils with us is not such an answer. We will not be part of a government which allows this," he said.

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi (NRP) is floating a suggestion to pass a law to have the councils chosen by the regional rabbinate, in conjunction with the local council head and the religious affairs minister.

The Religious Affairs Ministry unveiled a proposal yesterday to replace the religious councils with an administrative council, which in turn would appoint a professional director.

According to the present system, the size of a religious council is related to that of the local council and the members of the religious council are appointed according to a political key, with each faction nominating its representatives.

Virtually all of the Reform and Conservative representatives

whom the court said must be seated were nominated by Meretz.

The proposed law would provide for an administrative body of five members - two representatives of the religious affairs minister, two from the local council, and one from the local rabbinate. They would in turn nominate a director of local rabinate and religious services, to be appointed by the minister. The members of the administrative body would be unpaid, while the director would occupy a

salaried position for five years. According to Religious Affairs Ministry spokesman Yair Wolf, the proposal has the full backing of the chief rabbis and the NRP. Other religious parties are expected to approve it in the near future.

However, a pivotal factor in whether the proposal would go through is the Labor Party, especially since the Knesset Interior Committee is headed by Labor's Micha Goldman. On Monday, Goldman and Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau clashed over Goldman's insistence that official rabbis should not make public halachic rulings on political issues. Lau later met with Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, who promised to give an answer on the religious council proposal within a week.

## Hizbullah threatens to avenge wounding of civilians

By DAVID RUDGE and LIAT COLLINS

A senior Hizbullah official has warned that the organization will retaliate for the wounding of three civilians in heavy fighting in south Lebanon on Monday during which three IDF soldiers were hurt - two of them seriously.

Sheikh Nabil Kaouk, Hizbullah's leader in south Lebanon, was quoted on Lebanese radio stations yesterday as saying that incessant IAF air raids and the shelling of villages north of the security zone were violations of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

"We warn the Israeli enemy that we cannot keep silent over these breaches of the April [Grapes of Wrath] understandings," said Kaouk during a visit to the civilians who were wounded in the shelling of Tibnit village.

Meanwhile, Brig-Gen. Amos Gilad, the head of the research

department in OC Intelligence, warned in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that there is increased Syrian involvement in the scope of Hizbullah's operations in south Lebanon.

Syria is demanding an escalation in the hostilities in south Lebanon, he said.

He also said that Iranian aid to Hizbullah is becoming more established and there are two flights a week from Teheran to Damascus, and a flow of arms, including Katyusha rockets, continues from there to the Bekaa area.

Hizbullah also remains intent on trying to kidnap a IDF soldier as a bargaining chip in a prisoner exchange.

The Lebanese government is completely subjugated to Syria and will not sign a separate peace agreement with Israel, the officer said, according to an unofficial briefing.

"There is a very strong liaison between Syria and Hizbullah to the extent that the Syrians can increase or decrease the volume of Hizbullah activities in south Lebanon," the officer reportedly told the committee.

Israel has submitted three more complaints to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over breaches of the understandings by Hizbullah for firing from inside Jaba, Nabatiya and Tibnit villages during the fighting on Monday.

The three IDF soldiers wounded in the fierce artillery duels in south Lebanon on Monday are all being treated in Haifa's Rambam Hospital, where they were visited yesterday by President Ezer Weizman.

One of the soldiers lost both legs from the blast of either a mortar round or anti-tank missile which struck nearby. He was still in critical condition in Rambam's intensive care unit yesterday.

His parents were located and brought over from Russia to be at his bedside. There was a slight

improvement in the condition of the other tank crewman seriously hurt in the incident.

The third wounded soldier, whose parents live in the Netherlands, was

injured in a separate incident when Hizbullah gunman fired an anti-tank missile at the IDF tank he was commanding while on operational duties in the Rehan region.



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Sara Netanyahu (center) listens to abused women at the WIZO halfway house in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

## Sara Netanyahu offers support to abused women

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

As woman after woman told her of the abuses they had suffered at the hands of their husbands, and how unsympathetic officials had compounded their suffering, Sara Netanyahu, the prime minister's wife, listened sympathetically and occasionally asked questions.

"Domestic violence is much more widespread than we realize. The public must wake up," Netanyahu said yesterday afternoon, after hearing the women's stories and touring WIZO's shelter for battered women in Jerusalem.

It is vital that the victims of domestic violence be made aware of the facilities available to them, she said, and that the police and other authorities — as well as the public — understand that "one mustn't denigrate the victims and must take them seriously and must not let this happen."

One of the WIZO shelter's goals is to empower women so that they know how to defend themselves, shelter director Rivka Newman explained.

One woman, who has five children and several grandchildren, told Netanyahu that she would have left her abusive husband years ago, had she known there was somewhere safe she could go. Her husband had controlled the family's money, she said angrily, forcing her to wait on him and to beg him for money to run the household with.

Another woman, who is living with her daughter in a WIZO halfway house, complained that her husband, who has custody of their three sons, had turned them against her. She added that he is now working on their daughter, who complains that she is bored at the halfway house, because she doesn't have access to the computers and games she had at home. Netanyahu promised to look into obtaining a computer for the halfway house and encouraged the woman to "be strong" despite everything.

# Womens' organizations: One woman in 7 is victim of domestic violence

By NINA GILBERT

One in seven women here, or an estimated 150,000 to 200,000, is a victim of domestic violence, and every month one woman is murdered by her partner, according to statistics released by women's organizations to mark today's international day for combating violence against women.

Since 1990, some 110 women have been murdered by their partners. Last year, 18,000 complaints of domestic violence were filed by women, a number which is only believed to represent some 17 percent of incidents.

The Knesset held a special debate yesterday on combating violence against women, including the discussion of a series of bills to prevent the phenomenon.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon noted that all women are affected by domestic violence, regardless of socio-economic status.

A special session was also held by the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women, which discussed the results of an interministerial committee established by the government earlier this year to recommend ways to coordinate among authorities to fight violence against women.

Labor and Social Affairs Ministry Director-General Yigal Ben-Shalom, who headed the panel, said the extra cost of the program would be NIS 100 million and would lead to coordination among authorities for the first time.

Knesset Committee on the Status of Women deputy chairwoman Yael Dayan said the main conclusion



Wizo members demonstrate outside the Knesset yesterday to press for tougher legislation to combat domestic violence. (Isaac Harari)

from the effort is that there is no exchange of information today among the authorities — including hospitals, police, the justice system, and IDF — of incidents of violence.

She said she would bring the issue before the finance committee to ensure funding.

The bills discussed yesterday include one by faction leaders Meir Sheerit (Likud) and Elie Goldschmidt (Labor) to enable courts to hold men suspected of beating their wives for seven days before an indictment is presented. This would be followed by a speedy trial.

The MKs noted that there are many incidents in which women are murdered after their husbands are sent home after having been arrested.

Outside the Knesset, a group of women held a demonstration to press for the advancement of the legislation. The women, some of whom are battered, called for the courts to send violent men to shelters and ensure help for them from social workers.

Other bills — sponsored by MK Rehavam Ze'evi (Moledet), Ze'ev Boim (Likud) and Ran Cohen (Meretz) — would enable police to suspend a person's gun license after a domestic violence complaint has been filed against him.

Heidi J. Gleit adds: Women's groups in Jerusalem have teamed up to mark the international day against violence against women today. Dayan is scheduled to speak at a rally the groups are sponsoring at 4:30 p.m. today in the park at the corner of King George and Ben-Yehuda streets.

Chez, a singer who was a victim of incest, will perform at the rally, which is to be followed by a protest march to the Gerard Behar Center.

An exhibit by four female artists entitled "To touch the Anguish" is on display in the center's lobby and at 7 p.m. Before the *Bride Suffocates*, Efrat Ben-Yehuda Levine's award-winning play on the mother-daughter relationship, will be performed.

## Miller's attack on immigrants spurs furor

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and ELLI WOHLGELER

Jerusalem's Deputy Mayor Haim Miller, under attack for having told the Jerusalem weekly *Yerushalayim* that immigrants from the former Soviet Union are tearing down the country, said yesterday that his comments were taken out of context.

In his remarks, published Friday, he accused the immigrants of "bringing corruption here... [they] bring only trouble to the country."

"The haredi world must banish Haim Miller from its midst, censure him, and remove him from public life," said Chaim Chesler, co-chairman of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department.

In the interview, Miller said: "The new immigrants lead to assimilation and are destroying the whole state. They brought graft and pork here, we don't know who's Jewish and who isn't. For now, they're only causing problems for the state."

Miller said he is glad Jerusalem only has a small number of immigrants. "We don't need immigrants here. We don't need imports," he said.

Miller's remarks were made in response to comments made by Slava Frinsler, the owner of a chain

## Knesset panel okays new matriculation exam system

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and RIM

A new modular matriculation exam system aimed at getting more pupils to take the tests, while easing the burden on them but still maintaining high standards, was approved yesterday by the Knesset Education Committee.

The system, which still requires the approval of the teachers unions and the institutions of higher education, is to go into effect in the 1999-2000 school year, and establishes "basic," "regular," and "advanced" levels for the exams.

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy outlined the new system for committee members. Originally introduced in September, it allows pupils to take the exams at any of the three levels.

Passing at the "regular" level will be required for a matriculation certificate, but passing at the lower "basic" level can be used by pupils as a building block towards reaching the next level later, thereby either qualifying for or improving one's matriculation certificate.

A student who passes English, for example, at one level but fails the test at higher level will retain their grade from the lower level, which is not the case now.

The number of exams will remain the same, but pupils will no longer be required to take at least one exam at an "advanced" level. They will also be required to fulfill a community service requirement, to be set by each school.

"The right to take the test will not be denied any pupil, and he can take the test according to his ability," Levy said. "One need not be tested in any subject at an advanced level, but pupils will have to be tested in at least one technological subject."

Committee chairman Emanuel Zissmann said he is certain that the social gap will close as the number of those who obtain matriculation certificates increases.

Naomi Chazan (Meretz) said that while the plan would encourage more pupils to take the exams, it did not guarantee they would succeed in obtaining matriculation certificates. She added that the new system will lead to a situation where "pupils are tied up for three years taking the exams."

Prof. Gershon Ben-Shahar of Hebrew University, who participated in the meeting, said that while he welcomes the inclusion of a technological subject, "it's too bad that under the new system there is not at least one 'advanced' subject."

Secondary Schools Teachers Association chairman Ran Erez said that "the union was not a part of the new plan and the teachers are still not prepared to implement it."

## Islamists: We'll fill gaps in government services

By DAVID RUDGE

The Islamic Movement will continue to fill gaps in providing services in the Arab sector created by government neglect, according to a leading member of the movement.


Sheikh Kamel Rayyan, deputy chairman of the more pragmatic faction of the movement, said the services are connected to welfare, health and education.

The movement, he said, was also working in the fields of child care, nursery schools, sports and recreation facilities and activities, as well as in religious services.

Rayyan, until recently head of Kafr Bara local council in the Triangle, said an independent soccer league had been established by the Islamic Movement, which already boasted 35 teams.

In the religious field, he noted that the number of mosques in Arab towns and villages throughout the country had grown from 40 in 1978 to 400 today.

Rayyan spoke at a conference earlier this week on "The Arab Community in Israel - A Basis for



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## Labor out of Ra'anana coalition

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

The Labor Party is not part of the ruling coalition on Ra'anana's city council for the first time in the city's history.

The city's mayor, Ze'ev Bielski, announced yesterday that his coalition would be composed of his own independent list, Lev, Meretz, the National Religious Party and the Likud Party, with the possibility of smaller factions joining the coalition in the future.

Bielski said after signing a coalition agreement that the composition of the city government "will ensure the continuation of the quality of life in the city in which all sectors of the community live in mutual understanding, respect and cooperation."

The remarks seemed pointed at Rina Bar-Tal, the Labor Party leader who challenged Bielski for mayor in the municipal elections. Her campaign was characterized by charges that Bielski was "selling Ra'anana to the haredim" and that haredi elements in the city needed to be "stopped."

Shortly after the election results were announced, with Bar-Tal receiving only 20 percent of the vote to Bielski's 73%, Bar-Tal announced her intention to keep Labor out of Bielski's coalition and continue her fight against haredization from the opposition.

As a result of the coalition shift, Bar-Tal, who served as deputy mayor for culture, youth and

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## Cities and ciphers

There are cities that are ciphers in collective world consciousness, and there are cities where real people live. Capitals fall somewhere between the two extremes.

Everyone has a mental image of Sydney, Berlin or Montreal (even) — but Canberra, Bonn, Ottawa? And don't be vague, what's The Hague?

Imperial capitals always had, and retain, imperial-scale images that win them travel-writer adjectives like "eternal." There is no contest for the grand thrill encapsulated in names like Athens, Rome, London, or Paris, and of course the cartographers who drew the ancient Mappa Mundi had no doubt Jerusalem was the center of the world and the universe.

Newer capitals for newer worlds have more of an image problem. Washington is media shorthand for the United States in a way London no longer is for Britain, or the United Kingdom, or Cool Britannia, or England, or whatever it calls itself in these days of insecure identity.

### Wasp spoken here

Washington is a place. It was planned. It has a river. It has beautiful national monuments and buildings. It has people — albeit very tiresome and temporary — "in-people" who live in something called a Beltway and who talk and write about one another and their doings and their restaurants and their lovers and their political shenanigans with an introverted intensity that will amuse anthropologists for centuries.

But it also has real people who don't speak Wasp and who don't think they are super-important, but who also take lovers and do drugs and eat out and gossip and live in places they can't afford either. Washington may have traveled halfway from cipher to real city, but it still has a long way to go to become eternal.

All this obligingly leads us to Brussels and the European Union. This is the old, new capital of an old, new empire. It has been traveling in the other direction, from real city to EU cipher.

So far, no one takes the European Union very seriously outside of Europe, except as a curiosity, and a giant shopping mall, and a museum. This loose affiliation of 15 nations (we can't mention "confederation" for fear of causing mass suicides in the British Conservative Party) is now rich, culturally vibrant and classy. My favorite cliché (regular readers may groan) says the EU is a Rolls Royce with a sewing machine for an engine.

### Wipe your feet

The sewing machine is the clout of European foreign policy. Brussels as the capital of the resurgent Europe seems ideal — a city with a huge responsibility and enormous potential power, but a weeny international image.

Can anyone not from the

region rattle off an encapsulated history of Belgium, as one might for England, Spain, France or (God forbid!) Germany?

### Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

From the day the Celtic Belgae tribes were subdued by Julius Caesar, this land for 1,800 years became a doormat for other Europeans to wipe their boots on before entering someone else's territory. Clump, clump, clump came the boots of Romans, Franks, Burgundians, Spanish, Austrians and French before the Netherlands

swallowed it all up. At last, in 1830, Belgium became a constitutional monarchy — just in time to get itself ready for the clump, clump, clump of German jack-boots. Twice.

If any member of the so-called united nations of the new Europe needed its affronted dignity restored, it just had to be Belgium. So, Belgium's capital is Europe's capital, and at long last, that may really get to mean something.

In an economically driven world, the mighty dollar is what defines America. That is what has been lacking in giving the European Union coherence, but not for long. Europe will soon be defined by the mighty euro.

Europhobia has perhaps been distracting Europeans from the necessary job of restructuring their national economies, and the absence of Britain from the first round of monetary union is both dangerous and stupid (thanks Tories!), but the symbolic power of the euro may shock even Europeans once it starts rolling next year.

### Apocalypse then

Poor, old Brussels. All it got from the first wave of Europhobia was the grinding teeth of bulldozers ripping its Flemish heart out to make way for the faceless modernity that faceless eurocrats need to live in.

Washington was planned, Brussels was deconstructed. This neatly summarizes the difference between 19th- and 20th-century aesthetics.

The Schuman-Leopold quarter was eaten up by four horse-men of the EU architectural apocalypse: the Commission, the Parliament, the Council and the Bureaucracy. EU buildings in Brussels have attracted derisive names such as Caprice des dieux (divine folly) or Lubyanka. The red granite building of the monolithic Council is, naturally, the Kremlin. Brussels also is home to a myriad of other bureaucracies from NATO and foreign companies to its own city government.

So, with the coming clout of an EU based on a mighty euro, should Brussels then reverse that run from ancient city to bureaucratic cipher when it becomes the real capital of a real Europe with a real currency? Ah, that would be nice, but methinks I hear the clump, clump, clump of euro-bankers' and brokers' euro-polished shoes stomping Belgium-wards.

# Tuning in to Dr. Kevorkian

Media pundits debate the ethics of broadcasting the killing of a terminally ill man



Kevorkian, with his attorney, watching the '60 Minutes' episode in which he appears: 'I want to be prosecuted for euthanasia. I am going to prove that it's not a crime.' (AP)

By ERIC SLATER

Campaigning for the post of Oakland County, Michigan, prosecutor two years ago, David Gorcyca pledged to stop spending taxpayer dollars on long-shot prosecutions of the world's most provocative and resilient right-to-die proponent. He won the election, ousting the incumbent in suburban Detroit.

On Monday, Gorcyca found himself in a position not unlike that of his predecessor, if perhaps even more difficult.

The night before, on an episode of CBS's *60 Minutes*, he and millions of other Americans watched as retired pathologist Jack Kevorkian appeared to commit murder, injecting a terminally ill amateur race car driver with a fatal three-drug cocktail.

Calling Kevorkian's deliberate challenge to Michigan's law against euthanasia, which took effect September 1, "a disingenuous media ploy to garner publicity for himself," Gorcyca said he had issued subpoenas for an unedited copy of the *60 Minutes* tape. But he vowed he would not be "baited" into filing charges until the investigation is complete.

"I saw a nonchalant, callous, businesslike approach involving the

death of a person for the purpose of satisfying an attention-starved ego," Gorcyca told reporters. "It would have been more appropriate to submit the tapes to the local law enforcement agencies than to a national TV show if Kevorkian legitimately wanted to challenge the statute in court."

Although Gorcyca will be the one to decide whether or not to charge Kevorkian, he was not the only one left soul-searching by the grim television segment, which showed Kevorkian working needles into the right hand of Thomas Youk, 52, before Youk's head fell slowly to the side, his mouth open, and Kevorkian intoned, "He's flat-lined."

Legal scholars and law enforcement officials focused on the legality of the act — probably Kevorkian's most provocative.

Although he has helped more than 130 people take their lives, this was the first time he administered a lethal dose himself, Kevorkian said. Youk, of Waterford Township, Mich., was in the latter stages of Lou Gehrig's disease and was simply too weak to do it.

Members of the clergy debated the eternal consequences of taking your own life or helping someone else take theirs, with a spokesman

for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit saying he witnessed "a publicity-hungry, unlicensed pathologist killing a visibly troubled, vulnerable man."

Physicians considered the implications for all who have taken the Hippocratic Oath. Ethicists pondered the morality of euthanasia. And nearly everyone who saw the *60 Minutes* piece, it seemed, paused to consider televised dying.

"Is he dead now?" Mike Wallace asks, as he and Kevorkian view the tape.

"He's dying now," Kevorkian explains.

In the *60 Minutes* segment, Youk's wife, Melody, says she was "so grateful to know that someone would relieve him of his suffering... I consider it one of the things should be done."

Kevorkian, 70, told *The Oakland Press* of Michigan before the broadcast, "I want a showdown. I want to be prosecuted for euthanasia. I am going to prove that this is not a crime..."

"This is vintage Jack Kevorkian," said Larry Dubin, a professor at the Detroit Mercy School of Law.

"He has certainly violated the current letter of the law, but a guilty

verdict will be evidence to him that he lives in an unenlightened society, and he'll starve to death in prison," as Kevorkian has promised to do if convicted on criminal charges.

One of the most popular programs in the history of television news, *60 Minutes* showed the segment in the midst of a "sweeps" period, when advertising rates are determined and when local stations have increasingly taken to broadcasting journalistically dubious pieces on sex, violence and other titillating topics in an attempt to boost ratings.

Preliminary data showed that Sunday's program drew the highest ratings of the season.

Six CBS affiliates owned by Dallas-based A.H. Belo Corp. declined to air the Kevorkian segment, broadcasting local news until the piece completed.

In a statement, CBS defended the broadcast, saying "CBS News believes this program performed a public service."

The network said it had not yet received the subpoena and would study it before deciding whether to cooperate with Gorcyca.

Sandy Genelius, a CBS vice president for news in New York, said reaction to the segment was mixed but that the majority of

those calling or sending e-mails were critical of the piece.

"I must say I don't find it to be good editorial judgment to broadcast the death or murder of a person," said Bruce Jennings of the Hastings Center, a bioethical think tank in New York. "I believe that the broadcast simply played into [Kevorkian's] hands."

As some criticized the segment as a slide toward tabloid journalism for the revered show, Dick Schwarzs, a professor at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, said the story was "a heavy way of doing business, but I think it was fair."

Although Schwarzs, who teaches courses in journalism ethics, said CBS almost certainly considered the "sweeps" period before airing the story, he was not so cynical as to believe the search for higher ratings was the primary purpose for the piece.

"There is a great deal of interest in this subject," he said. "I'm 61 and I have more than a passing interest in death."

"I think if we give our audience the options and the choice and the warnings, then we've done about all we can do. We are supposed to provide fodder for discussion."

(Los Angeles Times)

## Survivors tell the tale of Hurricane Mitch

By JUANITA DARLING

GUANAJA, Honduras — Little Brian Suazo's birthday will always remind his family of the moaning winds that destroyed their house and swept away his crib when he was only hours old.

He entered the world just as the 100-mile-an-hour winds of

Hurricane Mitch seized his home in Guanaja, the most eastern of the three Bay Islands off the coast of Honduras. The winds continued for three terrifying days, battering the once-lush island in a preview of what lay ahead for the rest of Central America.

Gratitude that the storm killed only eight inhabitants easily gives way to fear that it ripped away the future for the remaining 8,000.

Here, Mitch scattered the McLaughlins of Savannah Bight, a family clustered in one seaside neighborhood before a house knocked off its stilts killed the matriarch, Miss Florentina.

Here, the Moore clan of Mangrove Bight spent three days standing up in a flooded kindergarten while Mitch splintered their houses and washed away their dream that even the children of poor fishermen could enter the computer age.

And here, Carolina Suazo, whose life before Mitch was one of hardship and uncertainty, now grapples with raw survival as she seeks a way to support her newborn son and his sisters.

THESE three families tell the story of Guanaja, home to the Caribbean's only pine forest, a speck of land whose inhabitants lived by fishing the seas and who dreamed of new prosperity from tourists visiting its beautiful mountains, coves and reefs.

Now the trees are naked trunks. The boats are washed away. Damage to the coral reefs that draw scuba divers here has not yet been determined.

Above sea level, however, the tranquility of an island with parrots and iguanas, and no automobiles, has been shattered.

Still, with jokes and faith, these proud great-grandchildren of pirates make light of their losses as they nail wooden planks back onto the frames of broken homes and wash dishes wherever they can find water that looks less dirty

than the plates.

The islanders' favorite post-Mitch pun is that this was not a hurricane at all.

"This was a slow-ane; it wouldn't go," former Congressman Spurgeon Miller said of Mitch, which first struck October 26 but then took on a snail-like pace even after it was downgraded to a tropical storm, making the deluge all the more destructive.

As they bail water and wait in long lines for donated food, the people of Guanaja are quick to express their gratitude that the deadliest Central American storm in two centuries, which took 10,000 lives, killed relatively few of their neighbors.

"It's a miracle that there were eight dead here and 8,000 telling the story," Miller said. "People were crawling from one shelter to another in the midst of the bad weather, and they lived. The Lord had a hand in this hurricane."

Cradling little Brian, Carolina Suazo said she is making plans to leave Guanaja.

Born and raised off the island on cays — 10 acres that magically escape mosquitoes and sand fleas, where half the island's population crowds together — she does not see the paradise that drew foreigners here.

Mitch is the drop that overflowed her bucket of troubles. "Normally, life here is hard work," said the 22-year-old mother of three. "Now, my goal is to fix my papers so that I can go someplace else to work."

EVEN before she gave birth during a hurricane, Suazo's life was not going well. Ever since her father was killed on a visit to the mainland eight years ago, survival has been difficult for Suazo, her five sisters and their mother, Hipolita Castillo.

Like most of the men who fish out on the banks, Brian's father is rarely around, and Suazo is uncertain whether the couple is separat-

ing or he is just working. She brushes away questions about him, as if to say he does not count.

Before Brian was born, Suazo struggled to support herself and her two other children, ages 3 and 6, with a job at the Marcusa Fisheries, one of three plants on the island that thaw, clean, package and refreeze lobster and shrimp brought in by the boats.

She worked from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. or 10 p.m., with breaks for lunch and dinner, and earned about \$50 a week — barely enough to pay her monthly rent of \$48, a \$15 electric bill, groceries and clothes for her growing children.

As Mitch was pounding Savannah Bight, Castillo, a midwife, was helping Suazo give birth to Brian. A few hours later, the hurricane reached the cays.

"The baby was born in the morning," Suazo said. "If he had been born at night, maybe we wouldn't be here telling the tale."

The first night of the storm, they moved from one corner of the house to another, as the wind blew bits off the roof. When the fiercest gusts moved to the other side of the island, the family ran to the Roman Catholic church, a concrete structure. All Suazo could save were the baby's clothes.

Suazo has remained in the church basement ever since, with her children, mother, sister, cousin and nephew. Fifteen-year-old cousin Wilson is the only family member working right now. He lifts racks of bread into a hot oven and takes them out, eight hours a day.

Castillo, who used to take in laundry when she had a sure supply of water, keeps the family fed by standing in line every midday until the Guanaja Ladies' Club distributes donations.

ACROSS the island in Mangrove Bight, Guanaja's most remote settlement, the Moore clan keeps faith another way.

Gathered under a US Agency for

International Development tarp on a Saturday morning, missionary Norton Perilla read Scriptures as 40 members of the Seventh-day Adventist congregation followed along in Bibles they had wrapped in plastic to save from Mitch.

The hurricane took their church, the high school that international church volunteers had helped build and the 10 new computers that had arrived last month to bring their children into the cyber-age.

Of the 146 houses that used to line the shores of Mangrove Bight, only 11 are habitable — and they now shelter 127 families.

"Everything we had is lost," said Eveline Moore, a 58-year-old grandmother, quickly adding, "I thank the Lord that our lives were spared."

That sentiment is repeated all over Mangrove Bight, a poor village where nine of 10 families make their living from fishing.

Significantly, only 19 families have left this debris-strewn beach. Those who remain agree with Webster Moore.

"I feel like I couldn't stay someplace else," he said. "Everywhere you turn, we're family some way or another."

City Hall has issued an order that no more houses are to be built over the water, where two-thirds of Mangrove Bight's homes had been located.

But, said Eveline Moore, "we have nowhere else to build. The land belongs to other people."

And after three weeks on land, she added, she is fed up with the mosquitoes.

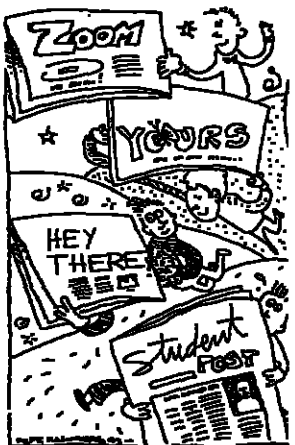
"We are going to break out in malaria," she predicted.

Cherry Powery Moore, who has lived through four episodes of malaria on this island, shares that fear.

"If I had the money, I'd go right back out [to the sea to build] again," she said. "There may not be another hurricane for another 20 years." (Los Angeles Times)

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سكزا من الامن

# Hereditary peers to lose rights

By MAURIZIO JOHNSON

LONDON (AP) - Signaling an end to six centuries of tradition, Queen Elizabeth II opened parliament yesterday by announcing a Labor Party government bill to strip hereditary peers of their right to vote.

Elected lawmakers crowded at the back of the chamber, while the queen, wearing the Imperial State Crown and long white dress, read out to the ranks of peers, dressed in scarlet robes with ermine collars, a 22-bill legislative program that includes the political demise of the bluebloods.

"A bill will be introduced to remove the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords," the queen said, reading in even tones the 20-minute speech written by Prime Minister Tony Blair's government. "It will be the

first stage of a process of reform to make the House of Lords more democratic and representative."

The legislative program - the second since Labor swept the long-ruling Conservative Party from office 19 months ago - also included a shakeup of welfare benefits designed to make things tougher for the work-shy, a reform of legal funding, and greater protection for rape victims.

The 72-year-old queen arrived at parliament amid almost all the traditional glittering pageantry, including a ride in with her husband, Prince Philip, in a horse-drawn carriage from Buckingham Palace.

The carriage was escorted by mounted members of the Household Cavalry, a regiment of helmeted riders with magnificent horses that has long ceremonially guarded the monarch.



Queen Elizabeth II (AP)

This time, because of Labor unease, however, a bit of the pomp and ceremony was missing. The lord chancellor, the chief judicial officer, turned and walked

away from the queen after handing her the speech instead of shuffling backwards.

And a few of the officials with quaint titles were missing - silverstick-in-waiting, the commander of the Household Cavalry; portcullis pursuivant and nine other genealogists from the College of Arms; and one of the queen's two ladies-in-waiting.

Stripping the hereditary peers, some with centuries-old titles granted to descendants of monarchs' mistresses, was the measure set to attract most public comment. Blair's aides, however, tried to focus attention on welfare shake-up, and changes in the state health and education system.

Confrontations between the government and the Lords - where the Conservatives have a built-in majority - have increased since Labor came to power. The Lords,

who can delay legislation for up to a year, has defeated 38 government bills, most recently five times refusing to endorse changes in the voting system for the European Parliament.

Critics charge that by removing the 759 hereditary peers, Blair is simply leaving the chamber reduced to some 500 lifetime peers, many elderly retired politicians given titles by their parties, without announcing an alternative arrangement.

The government says it will appoint a commission to come up with ideas.

Conservative Party spokesman Michael Ancram accused Labor of "constitutional vandalism."

"There is a certain nostalgia," Lord Walpole, holder of a title created in 1723, said before the opening. "I have enjoyed every moment and I hope I have contributed."

## Aziz: US won't succeed in breaking Iraq

By SAMIA NAKHOU

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq Aziz said yesterday the US and its allies wanted to humiliate and break Iraq through military attacks and sanctions, but would never succeed.

"The tyrants and the evil of the world, America and the Zionists, and whoever is serving their interests and schemes today seek, as they did in the past and failed, to humiliate Iraq and bring it to its knees by threatening destruction."

"But they have forgotten that they have tried and failed before, and they will fail this time also," Aziz told the opening of a poetry festival in Baghdad.

A mass burial, meanwhile, was held in the Iraqi capital for some 10 children who died from malnutrition and lack of medicine.

The procession stopped outside the UN offices where families chanted anti-American slogans demanding the lifting of UN sanctions imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.



Champion of democracy

The leader of Russia's Choice Party, Yegor Gaidar (center), flanked by former deputy prime minister Anatoly Chubais (left) and former first deputy prime minister Boris Nemtsov, pay their last respects yesterday to murdered liberal parliamentarian Galina Starovoitova. Russia's anti-communist elite turned out in force at Starovoitova's St. Petersburg funeral to pay her homage for speaking out for democracy. Starovoitova, 52, was gunned down in her St. Petersburg apartment building on Friday night. (Reuters)

## Report: Russia to hasten work on Iranian nuclear plant

TEHERAN (Reuters) - Iran and Russia agreed yesterday to speed up construction of a nuclear power plant in the Iranian Gulf port of Bushehr, a project strongly opposed by the US and Israel.

Teheran radio said Gholamreza Aghazadeh, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, and visiting Russian Atomic Energy Minister Yevgeni Adamov signed a protocol under which "the completion deadline of the Bushehr nuclear power plant's phase one was cut to 52 months from the contracted 55 months."

The report did not give a date for the completion of the 1,000-megawatt (MW) plant, but Iran and Russia have said it was expected to be commissioned next year.

Iranian media reports have said Iran was dissatisfied with the pace of construction and wanted Russia to speed it up.

Iran and Russia signed an \$800-million deal for the plant's construction in January 1995.

The radio said the two countries also agreed to discuss financial issues for the construction of a second 1,000-MW unit of the Bushehr plant.

A joint committee was assigned to study the construction of another nuclear power plant in Iran, it added.

Aghazadeh and Adamov, speaking in Bushehr after visiting the plant, said the two countries gave top priority to the project, "which would be completed and commissioned on time regardless of external political pressures," the radio said.

"The US has failed in repeated attempts to convince Russia not to cooperate on the Bushehr project, saying it could aid Iran's alleged nuclear weapons plans."

Danna Harman adds:

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at a press conference yesterday that the building of the plant means that Iran will be one step closer to arming its ballistic

missiles, which it is developing.

"And this would serve as a threat not only to us, but to the whole region, and ultimately to Russia as well," said Netanyahu.

He called on Russia to rethink its step, which "goes against all efforts to create peace and stability in our region."

Netanyahu adds: Brig-Gen. Amos Gilad, the head of research in OC Intelligence, also spoke of the Iranian nuclear threat, which he reportedly described as "growing."

He said Iran is investing unlimited resources in improving its strategic arsenal, focussing on developing the Shihab missile program for Marks III, IV and even V and integration with non-conventional weapons.

"They have to decide to develop their nuclear capability if they can," he said, adding that Iran's policy is to try to extend its influence over the Arab countries in the region, including Syria.

## Ceaseless snow slows eastern Europe

By RON POPESKI

BUCHAREST (Reuters) - Unrelenting snowfalls pinched Romanian roads, railways, and airports into fresh chaos yesterday, as sub-zero temperatures across Europe swelled a death toll of several dozen, mostly among the homeless and elderly.

Conditions were grimest in the Balkan region, but Western Europe also remained gripped by the cold - the most severe in 40 years in some regions.

There was no sign of immediate improvement in northern Italy, where temperatures in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region sank to minus 14 Celsius and winds of 115 kph whipped the Adriatic port of Trieste through the weekend.

Help lines for the homeless in France doubled their staff and highway and seagoing traffic was disrupted in northern Italy.

Snow fell throughout the day in the Romanian capital Bucharest, closing Banescu Airport, which handles mostly domestic flights. Flights were diverted to the city's main Otopeni Airport and several departures were delayed. Rail timetables were largely abandoned with dozens of trains cancelled.

Many streets were coated with ice and barely passable for either motorists or pedestrians.

Heavy winds kept all Romanian Black Sea ports and the Danube river channel closed for the fourth day in a row.

Electricity and water supplies were subject to interruptions in hundreds of villages in southern Romania and across the Danube River border in Bulgaria. High winds also shut down an oilfield west of Bucharest.

The official Romsprea news agency reported two new deaths - two farmers in their sixties found in their donkey-drawn cart - bringing to at least 12 the toll over the past week.

Romania began sending emergency power supplies to Moldova, its even poorer ex-Soviet neighbor to the north after its deputy prime minister had come to Bucharest seeking help.

In France, the death toll rose to eight after four more bodies were recovered during the night. An emergency telephone hot line drafted in more staff after reports that the homeless had difficulty getting through to be sent to shelters.

Forecasters predicted a respite later in the week.

## S. Africa delays election registration

By DANIEL J. WAKIN

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - South Africa hit its first major snag on the road to next year's elections yesterday when officials postponed registration for half the country.

The Independent Electoral Commission called off registration in four provinces just three days before it was to begin compiling the voter rolls for the first election since the African National Congress swept to power in the balloting that ended apartheid.

No date has been set for the election.

Commission officials told reporters that the southern provinces needed more time to train the 72,000 civil servants nationwide offered by the ANC-led government to staff the registration.

The commission had to turn to the public employees, because it did not receive enough government funds to hire its own workers.

The military said 8,200 soldiers will take part.

## WORLD

in brief

### Yeltsin stable, remains hospitalized

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin was in a stable condition with pneumonia in a Moscow hospital yesterday.

Nearly 48 hours after being rushed to a Moscow hospital with a high fever, Yeltsin was receiving treatment for pneumonia and the Kremlin said he would stay at the Central Clinical Hospital for as long as necessary. "His condition is stable. The president received necessary treatments today. His temperature is normal," Yeltsin's press secretary, Dmitry Yakushkin, said by telephone, adding that the president was able to walk around his room.

### N.Korea threatens to scrap nuclear pact with US

TOKYO (Reuters) - North Korea yesterday repeatedly denied US allegations that it could be building an underground nuclear facility and threatened to scrap a landmark nuclear accord with Washington.

"If the US wants to break the framework agreement while having no idea of making compensation merely because we do not show them the underground facility, we no longer need to observe the agreement inconveniently," a spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry said.

### Fighting near eastern Congo town of Kongolo

KINSHASA (Reuters) - Zimbabwe-backed forces loyal to President Laurent Kabila have been fighting rebels round the eastern Congo town of Kongolo, state radio reported yesterday.

The radio also said that Zimbabwean planes had sunk six boats in weekend raids on Lake Tanganyika, killing up to 600 rebels on board. There was no independent confirmation, but rebel political leader Ernest Wamba dia Wamba dismissed the report of the air raids.

"I assume this is just mere intoxication by Kinshasa and their allies directed towards the public in Kinshasa and Harare," he told Reuters in a telephone interview from rebel headquarters in the eastern town of Goma. Some government sources suggested that Kongolo had been recaptured by loyalists forces, but Wamba denied that too.

### Berlin mayor backs Spielberg archive for memorial

BERLIN (Reuters) - The mayor of Berlin yesterday backed a proposal to make US film director Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation video library part of Germany's planned Holocaust memorial.

Mayor Eberhard Diepgen said a memorial where visitors could learn about the Holocaust was a better idea than the current proposal for a gigantic, more abstract monument. "I can imagine a solution which would combine a national memorial with information about the murder of the European Jews," Diepgen told the weekly newspaper Die Woche. "This combination would offer the chance to get away from abstract portrayal and would also offer the certainty that young people will still know what it's about if they visit the place in 50 years' time."

### Diana outshone by Marilyn at auction

LONDON (Reuters) - Marilyn Monroe outshone Princess Diana at a London commercial auction yesterday, but an industry expert predicted the late princess of Wales would eventually prove a stronger memorabilia money-spinner.

A signed 1957 portrait photograph of the dead Hollywood superstar was snapped up by a Monroe enthusiast for £5,000 at Bonhams auction house, more than double the expected price.

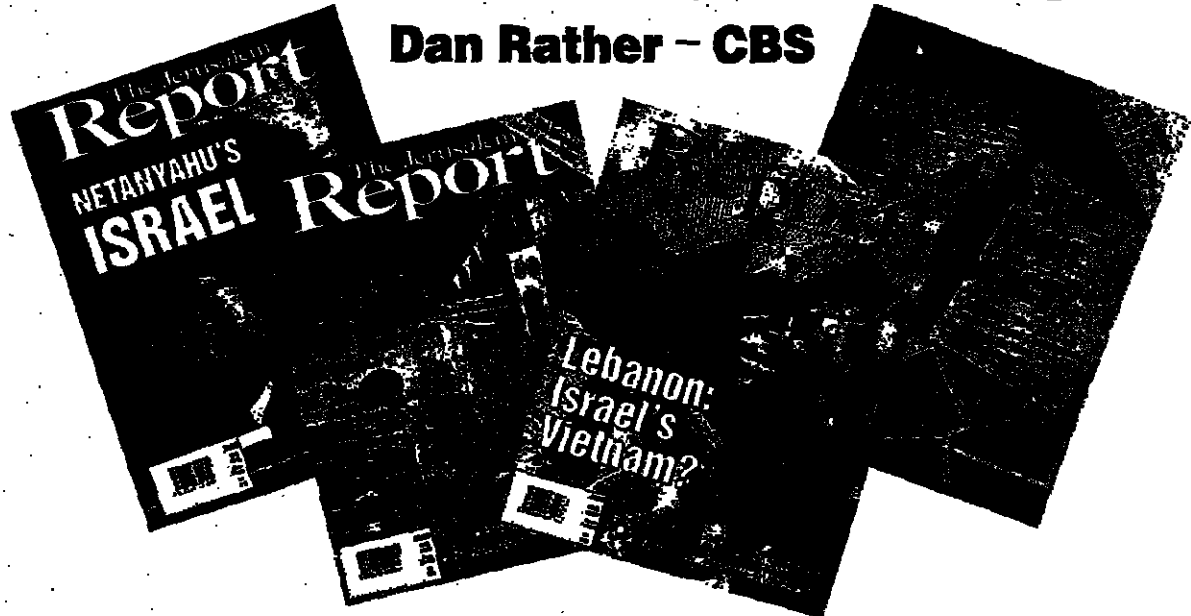
But a limited edition personally-signed catalogue of Diana's dresses, one of only 250 produced for a 1997 charity auction and expected to sell for £25,000, attracted no offers at the initial asking price of £10,000.

There were also no takers for a signed, handwritten letter from Diana mentioned in Andrew Morton's best-selling book *Diana Her True Story* - available for £2,000.

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## Exploiting the Holocaust

The Holocaust and its lessons for today, one sadly has to conclude, is not the unifying issue it should be. At times, it seems its enormity has been dragged down into arguments about money and national prestige, or simply a campaign issue in a senatorial race.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, for example — assuming coalition maneuverings allow him to leave the country — is expected to get cold-shouldered in Switzerland today, because he attended a Knesset ceremony last week honoring World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman and New York Senator Al D'Amato. Bern regards both, who actively pursued the \$1.25 billion settlement with the Swiss banks, as Swiss-bashers.

In fact, this is Netanyahu's second run-in with the Swiss in two months. There was a Swiss-Israeli diplomatic flap in September, when Bern took offense at a letter Netanyahu wrote congratulating the WJC for helping to recover Holocaust victims' wealth. Swiss officials had expected Netanyahu to praise Switzerland's efforts to come to terms with its war-time past, rather than align himself with the WJC's aggressive campaign to get compensation from Switzerland.

D'Amato, a three-term Republican senator from New York, was cold-shouldered by New York's Jewish voters earlier this month, when they decisively turned against him and were instrumental in defeating him in his reelection bid. Nevertheless, the peripatetic senator had relentlessly pushed the Holocaust issue over the past two years. He convened hearings of the Senate Banking Committee, testified in front of assorted commissions, and appeared at numerous Jewish gatherings at which he assailed Swiss banks.

But none of this assured him the crucial Jewish vote. Quite the reverse: He lost it, in part for slurring his Jewish opponent, Charles Schumer, by calling him a "putz-head," but also for exploiting the Holocaust. Many apparently believed, as *Washington Post* columnist Richard Cohen said, that the senator had "trivialized the mass murder of European Jews — turned it into yet another campaign issue."

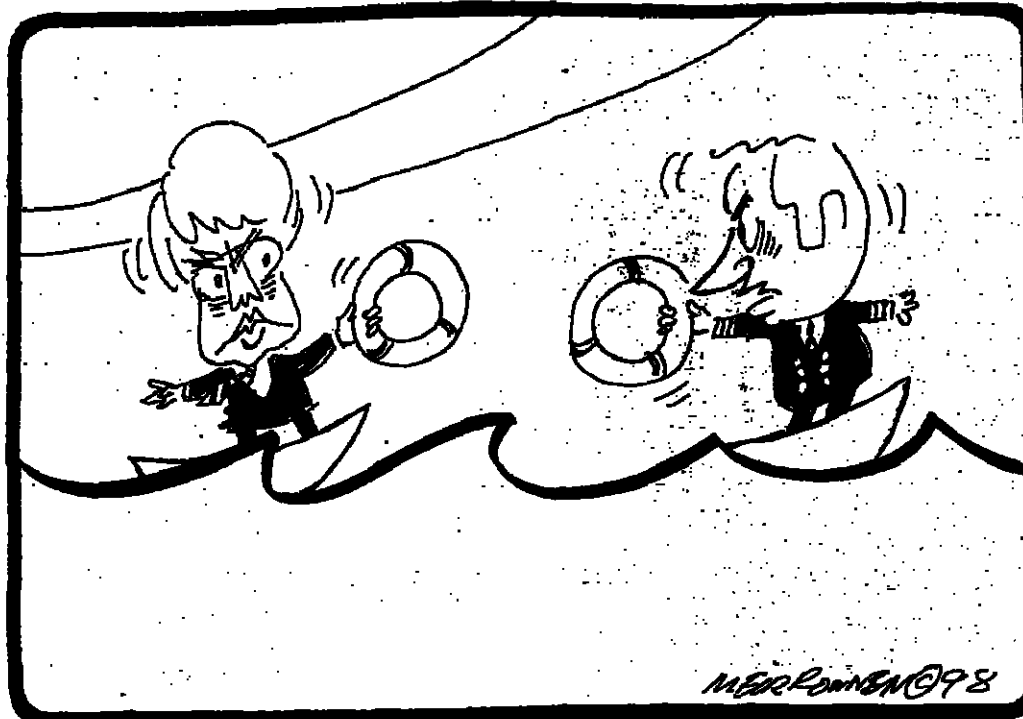
Sixty years after Kristallnacht, the legacy of the Holocaust heaps demands on Israel and the Jewish people. Holocaust education is crucial, so that future generations learn that bigotry is to be reviled and genocide is totally abhorrent. The memory of the six million is to be preserved, respected, and revered. And of course the

strength of the State of Israel must be ensured to guarantee the security of the Jewish people. These tasks should not immerse the Holocaust in politics, and they should spare Jerusalem from confusing the national interests of sovereign Israel with the country's sentimental role as the representative of the Jewish people. Israel recognized that distinction in 1952, when it negotiated a DM 3 billion agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany to cover the costs of absorbing survivors, but left it to the Claims Conference to arrange a separate deal with then West Germany for compensation for the "Jewish world."

Now, however, there are a number of potential conflicts between Israel's national interests and its emotional role as the center of the Jewish world. Jerusalem, for example, recently held hostage a business award to the Italian insurer Assicurazioni Generali, which owns Migdal, over a list of Holocaust-era insurance policies. Bobby Brown, the prime minister's adviser on Diaspora affairs — as first reported this week in *The Jerusalem Post* — said he will release a "dirty list" of international organizations the government alleges refuse to divulge information on Nazi victims, at an international conference on Holocaust assets in Washington next week. The list also includes the state archives of Poland — with which Israel is negotiating a helicopter upgrade deal — the Czech Republic's federal state archive, and the Vatican's state and church archives.

But for all the ceremonies, announcements, hearings, and conferences, Holocaust survivors have yet to see any meaningful benefit. The \$200 million Swiss humanitarian fund was established in March 1997 to urgently aid needy Nazi victims, yet Israeli survivors have yet to receive a shekel. Social workers report that survivors feel exploited, agitated, and angry, as they grieve anew for their murdered loved ones. The blame for the debacle of the humanitarian fund can be laid on the World Jewish Restitution Organization, which is directly and solely responsible for arranging for Jewish Nazi victims to receive funds. But many share responsibility.

The pursuit of justice for Nazi victims is critical, because none should be allowed to profit from the murder of Jews. But too many political and public figures have pursued the Holocaust for votes and glory, and in so doing have diverted attention from what must be the primary task at hand — helping the survivors live the rest of their days in at least a minimum of comfort.



## Abolish the religious councils

DAVID NEWMAN

which has its own agenda.

IN the mid-1980s, in the Negev town of Yeroham, Leah Shaked led a brave struggle for the right of a woman — an observant woman — to sit on the local religious council. Though much of the religious council's purview

**Abolishing the religious councils is probably one of the best things that could happen to religion in Israel**

involves women's issues — the administration of *mikvaot* (ritual baths), for example — she only succeeded in gaining her seat after a long and bitter battle which was finally won in the High Court of Justice.

Since then, a few other women have been accepted on religious councils, but the majority of the councils view such "intrusions" as unwelcome and have done their best to prevent too many other women from taking part in a decision-making process that affects them.

But the latest move toward representation for other religious groups — last week's High Court ruling in their favor — has brought matters to a head. The Orthodox have categorically stated that they will not sit on the same councils as Reform and Conservative representatives. If necessary, they say, they would rather abolish the religious councils altogether and transfer their functions to the local authorities, rather than have to sit

with these people whose beliefs they so utterly despise.

In fact, nothing could be better. There is no logical reason why a well-organized municipal department cannot provide religious services as well, if not better, than the religious councils.

Just as there are education, environment, and culture departments in most municipalities, there is no reason why there cannot be a department which deals with the public's religious needs. This would open the provision of religious services to public scrutiny, which can only be good for both religious and secular populations, and would allow for greater equality of service provision to diverse groups.

The religious councils have, for a long time, been one of the anathemas of Israeli politics, having become known as institutions that provide jobs "for the boys." They have done little to enhance the public's view of religion, having become better known for their internal political struggles, which reached new heights in recent years with the struggle for power between the National Religious Party and Shas.

UTP's MKs, on the advice of their spiritual mentors, have warned that they will quit the coalition — if Reform or Conservative representatives actually take up their positions on the religious councils. Netanyahu's coalition, shaky as it already is, would almost certainly collapse.

Either Netanyahu can undermine the political and democratic rights of these movements by attempting to circumvent the High Court ruling by pushing for a change in the law to assure Orthodox hegemony on the religious councils, or he can support the one option that's good for everybody — abolishing the religious councils altogether.

## Sass and slugging

RUTHIE BLUM

A couple of weeks ago the twelfth grade of Tel Aviv's Gymnasias Herzliya went on a trip to Eilat. During the course of the four-day trip, which undoubtedly cost the parents of the 210 seniors a pretty penny, a war broke out between two groups of pupils.

On the bus ride to the port, where the pupils were to board two large tour boats, an argument over which music should be aired on the radio turned into an ugly verbal attack against the kids of Sephardi origin.

"All you know or care about is soccer," jeered their Ashkenazi peers.

"Ashkenazi!" retorted the angry Sephardim.

The accompanying adults did nothing — except put a handful of pupils in charge of selecting which of their classmates would go on one boat and which on the other. Apparently, those put in charge of "selection" belonged to the Ashkenazi group.

And here's where the trouble really started. As the kids boarded the boats, it became clear that they were being divided along ethnic lines. "Whites" on one boat and "blacks" on another (their words).

Still the accompanying adults did nothing — except maybe count the overtime pay they would be receiving for having gone on the trip (now that they've won that particular battle of their own). The sights of the South were sadly lost on the traveling teenagers, who were busy — each group on its own boat — planning their revenge.

THAT evening, when they returned to the guest house on a kibbutz where they were to spend their last night, a full-fledged brawl erupted. Now fists, not just foul mouths, were involved.

Again the accompanying adults did nothing — except wait for the fighting to fizzle out, and count the hours remaining before they could return home and soak in a hot tub.

When the graduating class of Gymnasias Herzliya returned to the "city that never sleeps," moderate lip-service was paid by the school's teachers to the events that had transpired.

## The whole thing was blown way out of proportion

It was only after the weekly tabloid *Tel Aviv* got wind of the story that it became the subject of any real discussion in the school. The school whose principal up until recently was Ron Huldai, Tel Aviv's new mayor. The school whose current principal is Shulamit Aloni's son, Dror.

When asked about the incident, my friend's son, who attends Gymnasias Herzliya's junior high school, said: "Now, we didn't talk about it that much. The whole thing was blown way out of proportion."

BLOWN way out of proportion? Just around the time of the Eilat fiasco, another incident occurred, this one at the Melk Hei High School in Ashdod. While attending a school ceremony in honor of Yitzhak Rabin, 14-year-old Yitzhak Garber was caught sitting and chatting during the singing of *Hatikva*.

When accused of exhibiting inappropriate behavior, the ninth-grader told her chasidiser that she "did not honor Rabin because he gave away territory."

Needless to say, young Sophie was sent straight to the principal's office. Needless to say, young Sophie was sent home from school for two days "to think about her statements."

When she returned after the allotted contemplation break, she reiterated her sentiments. At this point, the furious principal suspended her.

A few days later, when Sophie arrived at school with her father in tow, she was advised by the principal to read about the late prime minister and his legacy before expressing her views.

After following this advice, Sophie wrote a letter of apology. "I understand that I was wrong," she wrote, "I thank you for causing me to change my opinion."

This past Sunday, however, in an interview on Israel Radio, Sophie claimed that she still held her previous beliefs. When asked for his response, principal Ya'acov Levy called the pupil's beliefs "illegal."

Maybe so, though it is the legality of Sophie's suspension which is now being reviewed by the Education Ministry.

Anyone who comes in regular contact with adolescents should not be all that surprised by the behavior of the kids in either story. It's the adults paid to educate and tend to them who should be sent back to school to learn to distinguish between sass and slugging. And to respond accordingly.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MK SLOMIANSKY'S BIGOTRY

Sir, - In response to the recent outrageous attack on the Swiss Christian women in Mea She'arim, our Anti-Defamation League office immediately issued a strong condemnation and expressed the hope that the perpetrators and ringleaders of this bigoted vandalism will be brought to justice.

Aside from the desecration of property and dignity, the attack was a desecration of the Divine Name — a *hillul haShem* — especially as it was ostensibly done in the name of Judaism.

We further condemn those big-

ots who justified this horrendous attack. We are nevertheless surprised to find that National Religious Party MK Nissan Slomiansky is among them, according to your report "Police nab suspects in Mea She'arim attack" (November 24).

The implication behind Slomiansky's remarks in the Knesset — that because the women lived in a haredi neighborhood, they bear some kind of responsibility for the attack against them — is a deplorable example of "blaming the victim" which evokes anti-semitic rationalizations justifying

attacks against Jews in the past.

Our heritage demands of us to behave respectfully toward all human beings and even teaches that any affront towards non-Jews is even worse than that against Jews precisely because it involves a *hillul haShem* (*Seder Elihu Rabba*, 26).

We deeply regret that MK Slomiansky chose to excuse such a desecration of the Divine Name.

RABBI DAVID ROSEN  
Director, ADL

Jerusalem.

### SOCIAL WELFARE DISGRACE

which are refunded the following month.

Due to a "work slowdown," "computer breakdown," and general apathy, foster families have not received any funds due them since the month of May. This includes the peak period of extra expenses such as summer camp, school tuition, books and supplies, transportation, clothes and the myriad of extra expenses that these chil-

dren with special needs require.

These children are among the weakest in our society. Since we can't and don't strike, the attitude of the social welfare department is "Kick 'em."

By the way, the system managed to pay their own salaries in spite of the aforementioned "breakdowns" and strikes.

NAME WITHHELD

### SPOILED ROTTEN

I recall a depression when we didn't have funds but we did the best we could — managed on what we could and did without if necessary.

I learned from my father that if I earned sixpence I should live on fivepence and save a penny. We still grew up, did the best we could.

If you couldn't afford university,

you went to work as a secretary or whatever and earned what you needed. There were those who worked during the day and studied at night and became the professionals they wanted to be.

Our youth are spoiled rotten.

GERTRUDE COHEN

Ra'anana.

## Overcoming the obstacles

ALBERT BENABOU

were launched along the same track of freedom and self-determination. He added that both Jews and Algerians should find a way to free themselves from the traumas of persecution on one side, and of colonialization on the other, and move towards coexistence.

In fact, Hanane Echeikh, in his article in the Algerian newspaper *La Nouvelle République* (October 25, 1998) published a letter of intention addressed by Algeria to Israel, calling for normalization of relations for the benefit of both Algeria and Israel, "out of national interest and heart."

WE are in a transitional phase of history. A change in international relations has occurred after the shift in the world's political structures.

Ambiguities and anxieties have resulted in a balance of power, following the disappearance of the two-bloc system. In a culturally open world with an emerging global economy, the aspirations of the nation-state are changing: there is a higher concern for the affairs of one's immediate community and region.

Whatever happens to Algerians and to Israelis is today of common concern to each. We are linked in a world of international interdependence and at the same time, preoccupied by diversity and domestic affairs.

Today, Israel and Algeria are battling a similar enemy — terrorism. Both also participated in the Barcelona Conference, which

called on nations to improve the quality of life of their populations as a deterrent to insecurity and to the disparate movement of population.

I recall from our culture in North Africa that both imams and rabbis would preach the adopting of the middle, moderate path; to avoid extremes even while realizing that this is the most difficult way.

There is a saying in the local language: "*shuay al Allah u shuay al abdo*," which means a little for God and a little for his servant — a sharing between the spiritual and the material life.

In the last half century, the Jewish people has retraced its roots to its homeland, recovered its independence and reached great heights in many fields such as high technology, medicine, science and agriculture.

It is due time to invite Algeria to be an equal partner in cooperative ventures in those fields, as well as in cultural, socioeconomic affairs and more.

No official document signed by the national leaders will be enough to create or generate proper relations between the two countries. We establish relations at the grass-roots level, a cooperation between the people in Algeria and in Israel, a bridge between communities serving their interests, and helping to assure security, stability and prosperity.

Algeria is endowed with enormous potential. It possesses a free and articulate civil society which could engender contacts, opening the road to official relations between Israel and Algeria.

No country can compel another to follow any particular track. We realize today that negotiating and sharing are the correct procedures. We are in the era of inclusion, not exclusion. And we should work together to deal with the affairs of our cities and villages in the valleys and mountains of Algeria and Israel.

The writer is a director of regional cooperation projects.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On November 25, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that Letter No. 1 in Israel's newly-established mail service was delivered to the Minister of Communications, Mr. David Remez, when Lod Airport was opened to civilian traffic. Mr. Remez signed the first receipt

which was handed to him by the Deputy Postmaster-General, Mr. A. Pinkas.

25 years ago: On November 25, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the talks between Maj.-Gen. Yariv and Egyptian Lt.-General Gammasy, held at kilometer 101 on the Suez-Cairo

road reached a critical point "calling for decisions by their respective governments," while Defense Minister Moshe Dayan warned that Israel might still be at the very beginning — not the end — of the war with Egypt and Syria.

Alexander Zvielli

50 years ago



# The 'intruder' who's here to stay

Pamela Warrick learns how parents can help 'big' brothers and sisters adjust to the traumatic arrival of a new baby



Though painful, sibling rivalry can help build the confidence and coping skills needed for later rivalries at home and work.

(Smit Uzieli)

One week to the day after Jake and Rose Fowler brought baby Max home from the hospital, their older son, James, announced that he had been thinking a lot about his new brother and had just one question.

Folding his hands beneath his dimpled chin, the precocious four-year-old gazed at the ceiling and pondered, "I was just wondering... what would happen if someone held baby Max by his toes out the upstairs window?"

The parents gasped and together raced up to the nursery to find Max safe in his crib.

Though relieved, the Fowlers were stunned and frightened by James's query. Was this simply the innocent imagining of a mischievous preschooler — or was their baby truly in danger?

When the only child loses his place at the center of the family universe, that universe explodes. Sometimes, say the experts, the new world order is established quickly and without much trauma. But in too many cases, the chaos continues well past the new baby's first year.

From the little girl who put her baby brother under her bed with her other toys and suggested keeping him there until "it's time to play with him again" to the five-year-old who insisted on wearing diapers and drinking from a bottle just like his newborn sister, the stories of firstborns' reactions to new babies are enough to make some parents stop at one.

Novelist Anna Quindlen wrote about first son Quinn's shock when he realized what it meant when he needed his mother's attention and didn't get it because she was busy with the new baby.

"I turned to my older son and said, 'You know, Quinn, I'm Christopher's mommy, too.' The look that passed over his face was the one that usually accompanies the discovery of a dead body in the den: shock, denial, horror. 'And Daddy is Christopher's daddy, too?' he gasped."

AS painful as they are, the experts tell us, sibling rivalries are not only natural, they can be useful. No less an authority than the late Benjamin Spock — pediatrician, author and the eldest of six siblings — wrote 50 years ago that this first competition can "build the confidence and coping skills needed for the inevitable rivalries at work and at home later in life."

To make sibling rivalry a constructive experience, children need their parents' help and understanding. Start by preparing your child gradually for the baby's arrival.

"No matter how carefully you break the news, it's going to take a

small child awhile to digest it," says Nancy Samalin, author of *Loving Each One Best* (Bantam Books, 1996).

She recounts the story of four-year-old Elena, who struggled with her belief that because her mother was having another baby, she was also going to have another family and leave her behind.

There is no foolproof method for guaranteeing Baby No. 1 will welcome and adore Baby No. 2, but there are some steps that can certainly help:

- Take your child with you to visits to the obstetrician.
- Sign up for sibling preparation classes, free at most hospitals.
- Visit a friend with a newborn.
- Talk about the baby growing inside the mother and encourage your firstborn to feel it move.
- Although the biology of pregnancy can be difficult to explain to a child younger than two, parents can show the big brother- or big sister-to-be pictures of the baby growing — either from a book such as *A Child Is Born* (Delacorte Press, 1990) by photographer Lennart Nilsson or

from in-utero images taken by the doctor.

• Show your child pictures of himself when he was a baby and talk

*Siblings Without Rivalry* (W.W. Norton, 1987). Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish liken the addition of another baby to the introduction of a second wife.

Comparing the first wife's feelings to those of the firstborn child, the authors ask parents to put themselves in this scenario: "When the new wife finally arrives, you see that she's young and cute. When the family is out together, people say hello to you politely, but exclaim ecstatically over the newcomer. 'Isn't she adorable! Hello, sweetheart.... You are precious!'"

"Then they turn to you and ask, 'How do you like the new wife?'"

This, Dr. Spock would suggest, is the time to show and tell your first baby how much you love her. When you come home from the hospital, let someone else hold the new baby while you hug and kiss your older child. And if the older child wants a bottle or even to be with the mother when she breast-feeds the baby, don't object.

The craving to be a baby strikes most young children at some point

in their adjustment to siblinghood. Some may relapse and wet their bed, or may revert to baby talk and crawling instead of walking.

Parenting experts say it's okay to humor this behavior once in a while, but suggest it may be more useful to appeal to the other side of the child — the part that wants to be grown up.

Even children as young as three can help out — if not with baby care, then by fetching diapers or a bottle from the fridge.

Author Samalin suggests asking your older child to "translate" what he thinks the baby wants. The older child can then be rewarded for "understanding the baby better than anyone."

But for the first year, don't leave them alone together.

Although little James Fowler never harmed his brother, Max, the Fowlers took his inquiry about the new baby seriously and reassured him that while they respected his feelings, they weren't going to let him — or anyone — hold the baby by his toes out the upstairs window.

(Los Angeles Times)

## Tackling the Tabernacle



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

*The Mishkan (Tavnit Hamishkan), a CD-ROM in either English or Hebrew version, by Torah Educational Software in Jerusalem, requires Windows 95 or higher, for age 9 and up, sold by The Jerusalem Post Book Department for NIS 169 plus NIS 10 shipping & handling, and other outlets.*

Rating: ★★★★★ 1/2 ★

Quite a lot in the religious school curriculum has to be memorized. Some of the most difficult material to learn by heart is the extremely technical biblical description of the construction of the Temple and the Tabernacle (*Mishkan*).

I remember struggling with these abstruse details in my New York yeshiva day school, and I've seen my own children struggle, too — though their schools, at least, distribute better accompanying diagrams than my classmates and I had.

But now the study of the Tabernacle, whose structure is described in the Book of Exodus in terms used by today's technical manuals, comes to life with this imaginative, well-researched disk. The 100 three-dimensional pictures in over 40 full-color animated videos make the Tabernacle so tangible that its gold structures appear to gleam in the sunlight.

For the uninitiated (which probably includes most pupils in secular schools, who are unlikely to be interested in this program), the Mishkan was the portable sanctuary built by the Children of Israel in the desert, after their Exodus from Egypt. The Hebrew word refers to the dwelling of God's spirit in the structure, which was tended by the priests.

It consisted of an outer court, a copper laver for washing, an altar for burnt offerings and its sloped ramp, and a sanctuary covered with ram skin and a veiled screen in front of it. Inside was the Ark of the Covenant, an oblong box of acacia wood laid over with pure gold and containing the holiest objects in Judaism — the tablets of the Ten Commandments.

On top of the ark was a slab of gold with two cherubs opposite each other and facing downwards at the slab, which is called the "mercy seat."

There were also a seven-armed menorah lampstand, made of pure gold and ornamented by cups, knobs and flowers that looked like almond blossoms.

These and the Tabernacle's other "furniture," including the altar of incense and the showbread, were built and designed by Bezalel and Oholiab, with their team of artisans.

The Tabernacle was transported from one camping ground to another during the Israelites' 40 years of wanderings through the wilderness and then brought into Eretz Yisrael, to Shilo, before the building of the Temple.

THE disk opens with the scene of a multimedia classroom, in which a hassidic rabbi (he has long sidecurls) stands at a lectern next to a screen and addresses an audience of 12 adult men whose heads can be seen from the back. The makers of the program were careful to represent all kinds of religious Jews by putting crocheted kippot, shtrimeles, Lithuanian-style fedoras and other headgear on the heads, which are clicked to elicit a dozen questions about the Tabernacle and view an animated lesson.

(Although girls are required to learn about the Mishkan as much as boys, there are no women in the audience. Surely they could have been some — seated separately, if

As relaxing Jewish music plays in the background, you click on the heads so they can ask their questions: Where were the ritual instruments located? How was the Ark of the Covenant put together? and so on. With no human figures appearing, the 3-D animation rotates the parts of the Tabernacle 360°, assembles and dismantles the various components, and provides an intelligent narration throughout.

Click on the bottom of the screen to see a gallery of 15 Mishkan objects, in whole or their parts, each of which can be printed out.

Click on the rabbi to hear and read a statement that while many of the details are undisputed, others have been contested by various rabbinical sages through the millennia; these minority views are also discussed in detail.

The disk does an excellent job showing the "what" of the Tabernacle. But it totally neglects to explain the "when," "where," "how" and "why" and put the Mishkan in context. There should have been an animation of the priests going about their holy tasks in the Tabernacle.

When I pointed this out to Torah Educational Software president Emanuel Fishman, he disclosed that the actual goings-on in the Mishkan will be described in a soon-to-be released sequel, along with descriptions of the animal sacrifices and other rituals.

While this is welcome, at least some of it should have been included in this first disk, so that customers needn't be required to buy both.

*Who Stole Hanukkah?*, a CD-ROM in Hebrew, English, French, Spanish and Russian, by CD-JehMM, for PCs and Macs, for elementary-school-aged children, distributed by The Jerusalem Post Book Department, priced at NIS 79 plus NIS 8 shipping & handling, and other outlets.

Rating: ★★★★★ ★

CD-JehMM, the Jerusalem software company that made Pessah come alive with its wonderful disk full of animated plasticine figures, has now turned its talents to Hanukkah. Given the five-language narration it provides in a single disk, it aims to spread the word about the holiday throughout Israel and the Diaspora. It does a very good job using invented fantasy, but I still prefer its more realistic Pessah program.

The story is based on a frog-like Prof. Croak (Prof. Yarkoni, in Hebrew) who collected antiques and whose "most prized" possession was the jar of purified oil that Judah Maccabee found in the Second Temple. But one day he fell asleep in his study, and to his horror, somebody stole the treasure!

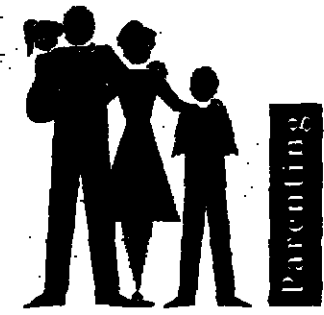
There are eight suspects: Narcisso the Greek statue; Crystal the fortune-teller; the Latke Troll; Bomba the warrior elephant; Shlemiel the Temple repairman; Mademoiselle Menora; singer Ora Star and the Candle Sister. The object of the game is to identify the thief with the help of Ner-Li, a female detective, whose room can be entered with a password and golden keys collected during one's journey through the disk by answering holiday questions correctly.

There are three plaster busts to click on for settings resource-center material on Hanukkah, its history, sources and a short handbook on how to celebrate it.

To play the game, you go to a street scene with an eight-windowed building; click on each window to get to a room with three doors, each of which leads to a holiday-related activity or Ner-Li's room.

Use a magnifying glass for clues at the scene of the crime, Prof. Croak's study and figure out who-dunnit.

The activities are enjoyable, the graphics competent and the help menu useful, but one wonders whether younger users might end up believing Prof. Croak and Ner-Li are historical figures like Judah Maccabee or Antiochus.



By Ruth Mason

Do you want to add joy to what your children may experience as prohibitions on Shabbat? Have you searched for Jewish guidance to thorny moral problems presented by your teenagers and wished you had it at your fingertips? Have you ever sat at your holiday table and wished you knew how to convey more of the day's meaning to your children?

If so, pick up a copy of *Jewish Family and Life — Traditions, Holidays and Values for Today's Parents and Children*. The lively colors on the book's cover, and even the jaunty font in which the title and authors' names are printed, reflect the tone of the book: friendly, fun, hands-on — but also filled with depth and meaning.

Think of a kind of *Jewish Catalogue* for parents and kids.

Authors Rabbi Susan Silverman and her husband, Yosef Abramowitz, a journalist, are co-founders of the web site [www.jewishfamily.com](http://www.jewishfamily.com) which inspired the book. Their approach is inclusive, advocating no particular religious line. They call the Judaism they want to encourage "organic" and say their aim is to help it grow in the fertile soil of your home and family.

In addition to activities and many how-to's, the book introduces us to real families and their various approaches to living Jewishly.

Being Jewish, writes the authors, is a journey and they let us in on other families' journeys toward incorporating more Jewish tradition into their everyday lives.

Silverman and Abramowitz see Jewish customs, holidays, rituals and daily life imbued with four cornerstone values of tradition: *tzetlem elohim*, the idea that everyone is made in the image of God; *shalom*,

## 'Organic' Judaism for kids



A child is never too young to bless the Shabbat candles.

peace, *tzetlek*, justice, and *tikkun olam*, our obligation to help make the world a better place.

The book is divided into three sections: traditions, holidays and values. It is full of information, sources, stories and quotes.

Here are some practical ideas to enrich the Jewish atmosphere in your home:

• Make a family mitzva tree: Do this together with your kids or apportion different parts of the project to different children. On a large piece of heavy paper, draw a tree with a branch for each family member. At the end of each branch, glue a piece of Velcro.

Cut leaves out of heavy construction paper and glue a piece of Velcro on the back of each one. Write a different mitzva on each leaf, such as giving tzedaka, visiting the sick, getting up for an older person on the bus, helping a neighbor carry groceries, writing a letter to a politician about an issue of concern, studying Torah, making blessings, lighting Shabbat candles, etc. Each time a family member does a mitzva, attach the leaf to that person's branch. Start over at the end of every Shabbat.

• Organize a Jewish birthday treasure hunt: Instead of simply giving

your child her birthday gift, have all the children search for it. Use the Jewish symbols in your home in the hunt.

For example, the first clue can read, "Moses and Miriam put this on our dog." Then taped to the mezzana, they might find a note that reads, "Who gives to the poor shall not lack (Proverbs 28:27)." You can hide the next clue under a pile of coins to be put into your tzedaka box and so on until they find the birthday gift at the end.

• On Shabbat, act out a scene from the week's Torah portion.

• Write yourselves Yom Kippur letters: Gather your family together on the day before Yom Kippur. Hand out pens and paper and have everyone write a letter to themselves on a theme such as: What can I do to become a more sensitive person? Or, How can I contribute to *tikkun olam* this year?

Have everyone seal, address and stamp the envelopes and assign someone to mail them just before the following Yom Kippur. Collect these and you will be able to chart your family's personal/spiritual growth over the years.

• Celebrate Tu B'Shvat: In ancient Jerusalem, young women dressed

in white would dance under the full moon on this day while men would follow in the hopes of finding a bride. Tu B'Shvat is also known as the day when, 40 years after the Israelites left Egypt, God told them they would be able to enter the Promised Land.

• Bring home flowers; arrange to spend private time with your

spouse (even though they will be without you, this is a good model for your children!); gather the family together, make a list of everyone you love and address envelopes to them for Rosh Hashana cards.

Each chapter of the book has a section called "Hands-On Judaism" in which you will find many more ideas.

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Shabbat

## Corner

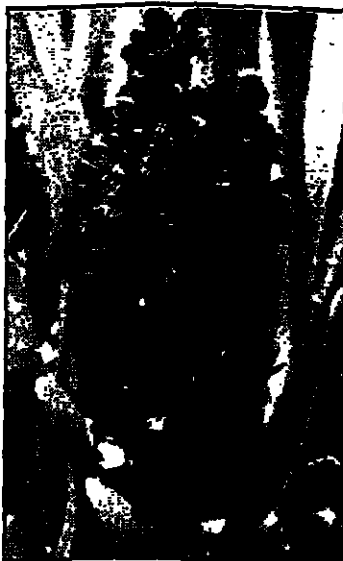


By Batsheva Mink

Spring bulbs in full bloom lift the heart like nothing else, bringing your garden alive after a long wet winter. If daffodils are the No. 1 bulbous flower, the hyacinth – with its magnificent scent and vibrant colors – is an inarguable runner-up.

Every spring, as the hyacinth flowers begin to unfold, I always wish I had planted more.

No single class of plants is as versatile as the bulb type. They grow in almost any reasonable garden soil, and do well both in the sun and the shade.



Now is the time to start thinking about which bulbs you want to plant. Hyacinths should be planted some time between the end of December and the end of January, but the bulbs must be refrigerated for four to eight weeks before planting so as to emulate conditions in their native, and cooler, Holland. If you wait too long to buy, you'll miss the boat, because they stop selling them in January.

The hyacinth takes its name from a Greek legend. Hyacinthus was a youth loved and accidentally killed by Apollo, who then memorialized the youth with a hyacinth growing from the youth's blood. Homer alludes to the dainty hyacinth as being among the flowers which formed the couch of Juno.

The genus has about 30 species and belongs to the lily family (Liliaceae), native primarily to the Mediterranean region and tropical Africa.

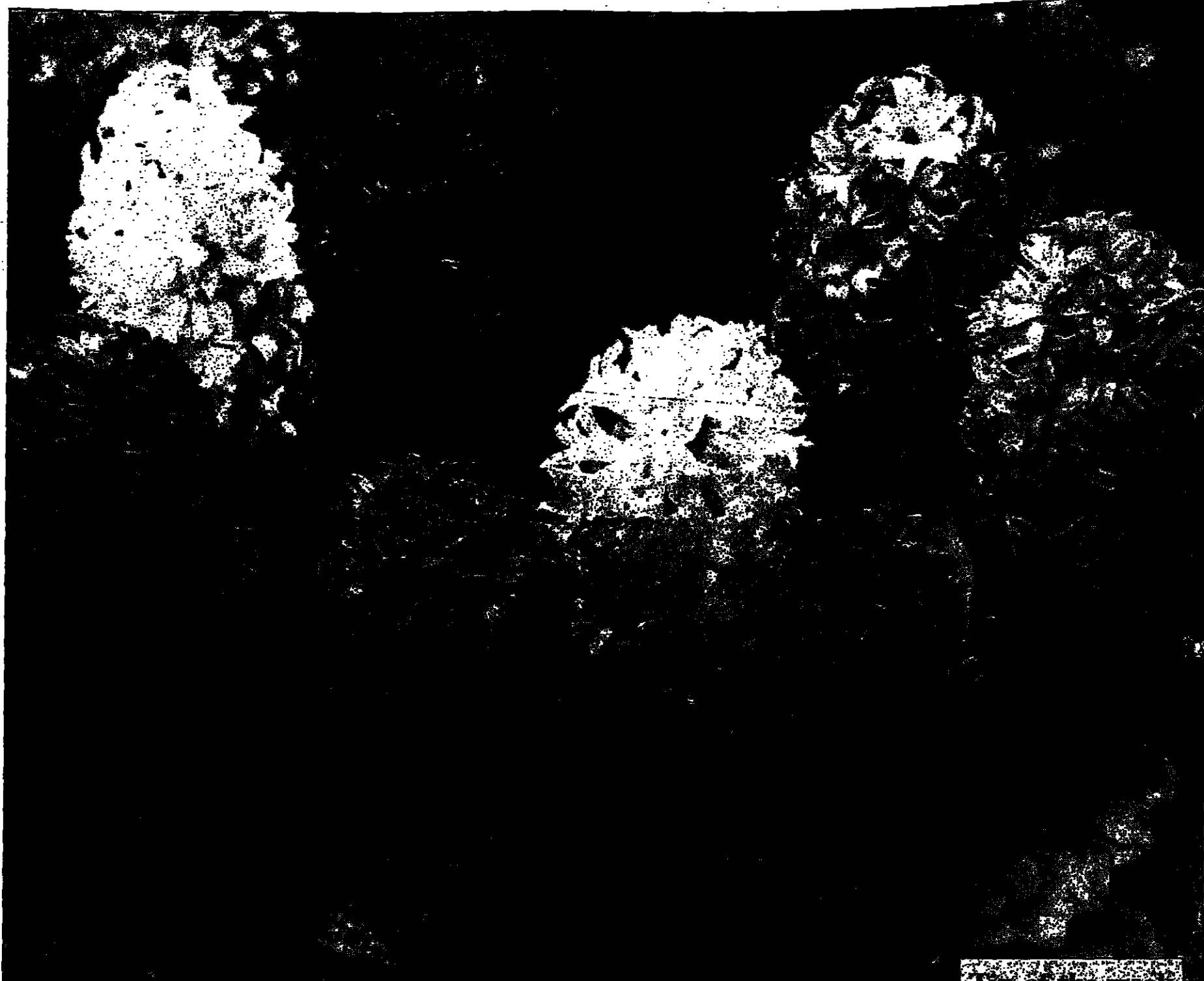
A native of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, the *Hyacinth orientalis* (Heb. *yakinton*) was used to produce the modern garden hyacinth. Introduced into England in 1560, its popularity increased so much that a 100 years later Dutch

growers had produced 2,000 new varieties. One, called King of Great Britain, bore double flowers and each bulb sold for £100, quite a sum in the early part of the 18th century.

The florists' hyacinths, as they came to be called, were grown in pots for winter decoration – their scent counteracted the musty smell of badly ventilated rooms. These flowers owe their popularity to Madame de Pompadour, who decided that the court should adopt them as the fashionable flower for indoor decoration during the winter and early spring.

Growing between 20 and 30 cm. in shades of dark red, pink, blue and white, all hyacinths give off the same delicious perfume, although the whites have the strongest smell.

Flowering occurs in early, mid- and late spring. Planting a few bulbs a week will give you flowers over a longer period. Choose large, firm, fat bulbs, free of soft spots, mold, bruises and cuts. Do not keep the bulbs in a warm room too long before planting them. Hyacinths need a cool environment in order to flower successfully.



Growing between 20 and 30 cm. in shades of dark red, pink, blue and white, all hyacinths give off the same delicious perfume, although the whites have the strongest smell.

ly. If the bulbs are kept warm too long, they may not flower at all.

Because hyacinths, along with tulips, require an annual warm-cool-warm temperature sequence for them to bloom, gardeners in mild areas need to plant precooled bulbs. To precool, simply store the bulbs in a bag in the warmest part of the refrigerator (the vegetable drawer) for four to eight weeks before planting. Do not place near ripening fruit, because the ethylene gas produced by the ripening process can

inhibit bulbs from blooming. Cold temperatures are also necessary for producing good strong stems. Your warm-region garden is likely to produce short stems if precooled does not take place.

Cultivation in the garden: Make sure the soil is not compacted. All bulbs require free drainage – they rot in soggy soil.

Preparation: Turn the soil over with a sprinkling of all-purpose fertilizer.

Position: Plant in a partly shaded position. If planted in full sun the flowering period will be shorter.

Planting: Plant bulbs 15 cm. deep and 20 cm. apart.

Watering: Do not let them dry out at flowering time; it will cause the stem to collapse.

Soil: Hyacinths are not fussy about soil as long as the drainage is good.

Pests and Diseases: Discoloration of the foliage and poor development of the flowers

are usually due to unsuitable growing conditions.

After flowering: Allow the leaves to turn yellow before lifting the bulbs. Store in peat moss in a cool dry place.

Batsheva Mink is a curator of the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Givat Ram.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, POB 3943, Jerusalem 91039.

## Tip of the week

Create an indoor garden by planting these bulbs in a pot. Plant in a pot with drainage holes. Use a mix of peat moss and perlite. Water when the top of the soil is dry. Keep in a cool, dark place for four to eight weeks. When the roots are visible, bring them into the light. Keep the soil moist but not soggy. Hyacinths last longer in a pot than in the ground.

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### Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

One of our readers has written about her seven-year-old cat, a neutered tom.

"Our cat constantly wheezes, coughs, sneezes and seems short of breath. This has been going on for two years now and seems to be worse when he stays inside the house for long periods. After a period outside he seems better. Our veterinarian says that he has asthma. Have you heard of this condition in cats?"

Indeed I have, and it is not as rare as some people think for animals, especially cats and dogs, to have allergy-related diseases. Our pets may suffer the effects of chemical intruders no less than do their human companions.

The cat mentioned here is most probably suffering from a reaction to a household contaminant, since the owner says he improves outside in the fresh air.

While a few dogs and cats may have a type of hay fever brought on by exposure to grasses and garden plants, this is unusual. More common are reactions to detergents, insecticides, herbicides and a host of other chemical pollutants.

One of the most severe manifestations is the respiratory condition known as asthma. It is often caused by an allergy to formaldehyde, used in making plywood, particle boards and all sorts of other wood used in cabinets and household furniture, as well as wooden wall and ceiling panels.

Many dogs and cats suffer severe skin eruptions, hair loss and general poor condition when the area where they walk or play is sprayed with herbicides. Problems may range from skin conditions through severe symptoms of toxic exposure and poisoning may be suspected, correctly, as the cause. Another common condition that is often not recognized as an allergy is

## Pets that wheeze and sneeze



MEIR ROMEN ©98

"red eye." One or both eyes have inflamed, itchy lids, and seem dry and staring. This is often caused by a tear-duct blockage due to a slight swelling which does not allow the normal flow of moisture into the eyes.

Over the years, I have seen a number of animals suffering from respiratory or skin reactions to chemicals. One Jerusalem dog suffered from a severe skin condi-

tion that no amount of pills, baths or ointments could alleviate until its owner decided to wash her bedding in an extra cycle of clear water only. The dog slept on her bed, and it turned out to be the residual detergent in the sheets that was causing the problem.

In another case, a cat that repeatedly suffered from intestinal upsets, loss of appetite and general debility recovered completely

when kept inside and denied access to the lawn, where a number of herbicides and fungicides were regularly in use.

Whatever the symptoms, a veterinarian should be consulted and asked about the possibility of allergies. Our pets, like ourselves, are exposed to such a variety of contaminants that it is hard to say just what may be the cause of the problems.



# Movie geeks come out in force

By MICHAEL COLTON

Joel Bergin's parents had the Vietnam War, the Berlin Wall and the civil rights movement; he has the Clone Wars, the Republic of Naboo and the Dark Side of the Force.

Though most of the moviegoing public in the US and Canada waited until last Friday to view the two-minute trailer for next year's *Star Wars* prequel — perhaps the most anticipated movie ever — Bergin, a 17-year-old Arlington, Va., high school senior, had to see it before everybody else. "It's a piece of history," he said.

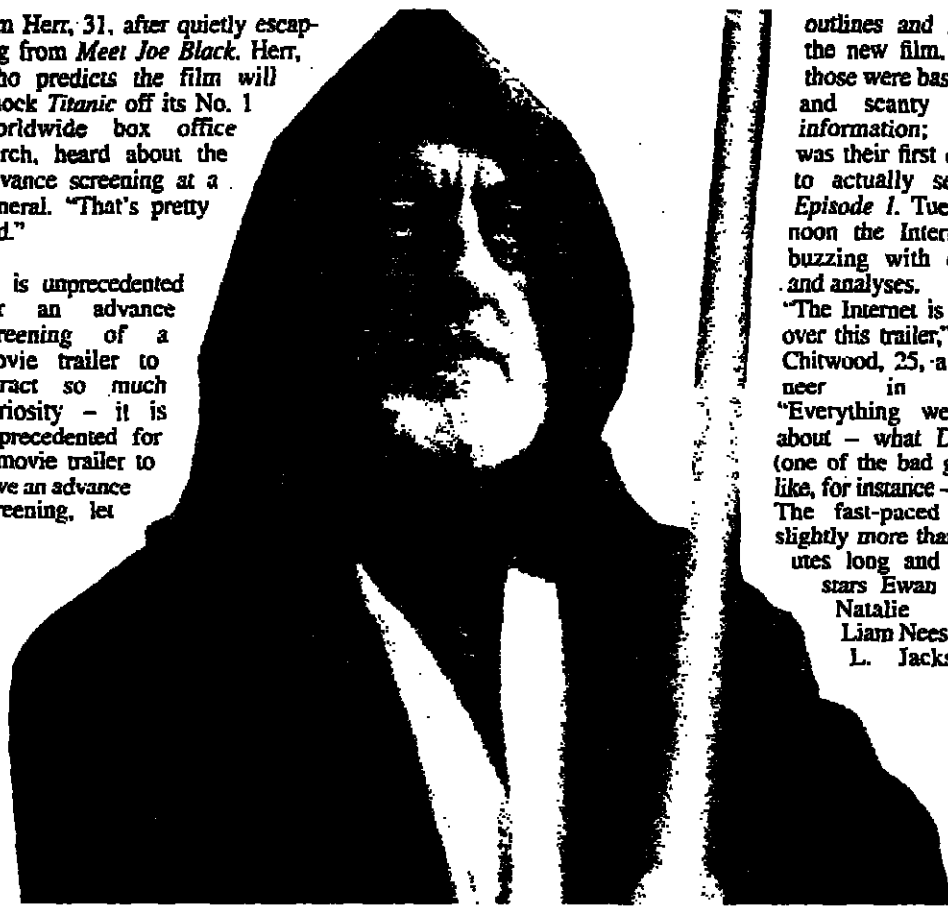
At only 75 screens selected by 20th Century Fox, fans in the United States and Canada gathered last week for the first glimpse of *Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace*. Summoned by Web sites like Lucasfilm's *Star Wars* page and Ain't It Cool News, the audiences consisted of high school students and college professors, self-professed "movie geeks" and slackers ditching work.

At last week's Tuesday afternoon screening of *Meet Joe Black* at the Uptown Theater in Cleveland Park, fans — mostly male — sat in anticipation, reading comic books and scholarly texts about cinema. But at least a dozen people left before the film started. It wasn't the thought of three hours of Brad Pitt as Death that scared them away. They had come just for the trailer.

"Unbelievable," said a visibly elated Rob McNeese, 24, an Arlington college student. "I consider myself a harsh critic, but after the trailer I was applauding." "It's going to be incredible," said

Jim Herr, 31, after quietly escaping from *Meet Joe Black*. Herr, who predicts the film will knock *Titanic* off its No. 1 worldwide box office perch, heard about the advance screening at a funeral. "That's pretty sad."

IT is unprecedented for an advance screening of a movie trailer to attract so much curiosity — it is unprecedented for a movie trailer to have an advance screening, let



outlines and images for the new film. But all of those were based on leaks and scanty legitimate information; the trailer was their first opportunity to actually see any of *Episode I*. Tuesday afternoon the Internet started buzzing with dissections and analyses.

"The Internet is going nuts over this trailer," said Scott Chitwood, 25, a civil engineer in Houston. "Everything we gossiped about — what Darth Maul (one of the bad guys) looks like, for instance — is shown." The fast-paced trailer is slightly more than two minutes long and shows off stars Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman, Liam Neeson, Samuel L. Jackson, Jake

(www.starwars.com), and word spread online. "A special treat for the fans that have been checking the Web site regularly," Lucasfilm spokeswoman Jeanne Cole explained. The trailer was expected to give a boost to weekend movie ticket sales when it went into wide release late last week.

Since the advance screening was given in only 26 states, the District of Columbia and Canada, some fans drove to other cities to catch the trailer, and even stayed for multiple screenings. It was shown both before and after Universal's *Meet Joe Black*, Disney's *The Waterboy* and 20th Century Fox's *The Siege*.

Theaters were chosen for their screen size and digital sound equipment, according to Tom Sherak, chairman of the 20th Century Fox Domestic Film Group. Theater owners had to splice the trailer to both ends of the features. (Trailers used to run after the feature was over, hence the name.)

"The true test of a fan is to stay to the end of the credits to watch the second trailer," said Chitwood, who sat through *The Waterboy*, which he had already seen, in Houston.

Chitwood is co-founder of the force.net, one of the leading fan Web sites. Another site, jedinet.com, posted stills from the trailer taken by a fan who took a camera into the theater.

On such a day of elation for him and his kind, Chitwood struck a more somber note by reaching out to the less fortunate. "I feel sorry for the people in Europe and Australia that have to wait to see the trailer," he said. "I really feel bad." (The Washington Post)

alone one that's covered by the BBC — but everything about *Episode I* has been unprecedented. The fourth installment of the venerable *Star Wars* series (but the first chronologically), the film is George Lucas' first directorial effort since the original *Star Wars* in 1977. It is scheduled to open in the US May 21.

Web sites and magazines have been busy for months speculating

on every aspect about the production from the plot, casting and title, to which fast-food restaurant will provide toys and how much advertising it will get during the Super Bowl (Taco Bell and 12 minutes, according to one site).

Some avid fans — who have waited since *Return of the Jedi* in 1983 bidding their time with *Star Wars* books, toys and video games — have constructed their own scripts,

Lloyd, R2D2 and Yoda. It contains the familiar John Williams score, lots of chases and special effects, and a line that undoubtedly sent shivers down many spines in the multiplexes: "Anakin Skywalker, meet Obi-Wan Kenobi." (Jedi knight Kenobi and Skywalker, the future Darth Vader, fight to the death in *Star Wars*.)

Lucasfilm announced the screening last week on its Web site

## New life for Beethoven violin sonatas

### CLASSIC DISCS

In the press material accompanying Anne-Sophie Mutter's four-disc album of the entire Beethoven violin sonatas (*Beethoven: The Violin Sonatas* — Anne-Sophie Mutter and Lambert Orkis, Deutsche Grammophon 457 619-2) we read that "Anne-Sophie Mutter is the first female violinist in the Western world to record all Beethoven's sonatas. It is a privilege reserved primarily for her male colleagues that has inspired her to produce performances which in their idiosyncratic and restless grandeur are superbly at one with the spirit of these works."

Yet, although written by one of Germany's leading music critics for this purpose, one could very easily add that this superb quote is a mere understatement. Because this new recording is much more, it is without any doubt one of the most exciting, penetrating and intellectually gripping discs to be released recently.

It is a journey of one of today's most beguiling musicians into a land not many have previously tackled in such intensity. It is a performance that leaves one in awe of the performer and the music alike.

It is a recording that makes one admire Mutter not only for her flawless compelling artistry but even more so for her sincere human and humane musicianship and her ability to combine the intellectual and the emotional in a seemingly obvious way in a few musicians succeed in.

Listening to the four hours and



Anne-Sophie Mutter combines the intellectual and the emotional.

20 minutes of this album is an experience one must absorb in one take. Granted each sonata is perfectly performed by its own right, showcasing the extraordinary talent and absorption of Mutter. But the point here is to savor the entire cycle as a whole and to follow the sonatas' development from their very beginning.

This is the only way to comprehend the power of the Kreutzer (the ninth) sonata, which here

receives what is probably the most round, fullest, penetrating and at the same time passionate reading in a long time.

Mutter is an extraordinary

musician. She is one of the finest violinists of our generation, a protégée of Herbert von Karajan and one of the leading stars of the Deutsche Grammophon label, who records at least one new album per year ranging from the classics to the very modern. Each Mutter recording and performance is reason enough for celebration.

She is never the conventional, always looking deep into the music, never showcasing her own virtuoso abilities — which are quite amazing to say the least — always serving the music and presenting a very specific interpretation of it.

When we hear Mutter play the first notes of the first Beethoven sonata we wonder a little because there is a maturity in the presentation that does not coincide immediately with the rather early and youthful sonata. But as we move from one sonata to another we at once realize that even in the first sonata Mutter sees the whole picture. For her the first sonata is not a mere youthful work; it is the beginning of a journey that ends with the final sonata, a journey in which each step leads logically to the next.

One could focus on each of the 10 sonatas in order to reveal how Mutter relives the musical and the emotional life of the music and the composer through these works. But suffice it to say that with the excellent partnership of her regular pianist, Lambert Orkis, Mutter presents here one

of the most extraordinary musical feats of recent times.

The four discs are accompanied by a first-rate booklet with numerous photographs of Mutter and Orkis in action. Mutter dedicated this set to the memory of her husband, Dr. Detlef Wunderlich. Her motto for the album is that "music and creative arts are as important as the air we breathe. We need this nourishment for the spirit and the soul."

## 19 local movie projects receive green light

By HELEN KAYE

Nineteen film projects chosen from 131 proposals will share NIS 1.25 million, the New Foundation for Cinema and Television announced earlier this week.

Nine of these are script developments, most of whose authors are getting NFCT support for the first time. The rest of the money is divided among six productions and four post-productions.

Of the nine chosen for script development, six are documentaries "chosen not because they're cheaper to do than dramas — although they are — but because this time the documentaries were better than the suggested dramas," said NFCT coordinator Ayelet Kafri.

The script projects include *The People of Kyustendil*, on how the people of Bulgaria saved their Jews; a profile of Israeli journalist Amira Hass; *From Zion to Soweto*, the story of Ethiopian Jews and reggae; and *Artisano 4*, one of the three dramas, which will tell

the stories of four generations of women.

The productions are all documentaries, whose subject matter ranges from *Heart of the Country* — a year in the life of a family by Michal Aviad, the creator of last year's bewitching *Jenny and Jenny* — to a down-and-dirty look at life aboard a diamond miners' ship moored off the coast of Namibia, called *Rust and Diamonds*, created by filmmakers still in their twenties.

The money, which comes from the Arts and Culture Authority, is a drop in the bucket, like the rest of this country's film funding, but the bill which would create independent sources of funding for our faltering film industry is still in committee, close to a year after it passed its preliminary reading.

Israeli Film Academy general manager Ilana Sharon says, however, "that it usually takes from two to three years to get a bill passed. I have to say that the committee is doing its best to expedite passage of this bill into law."

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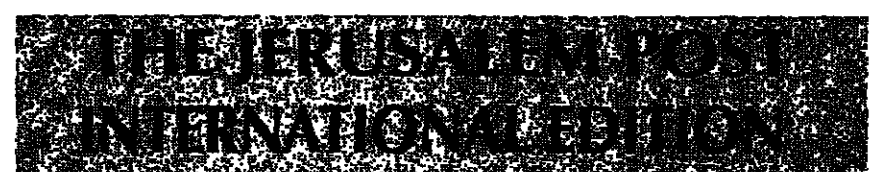
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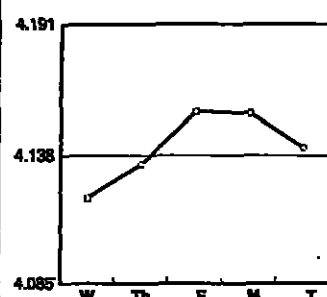
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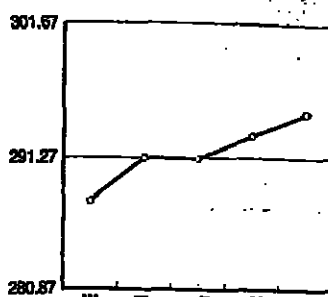
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in brief

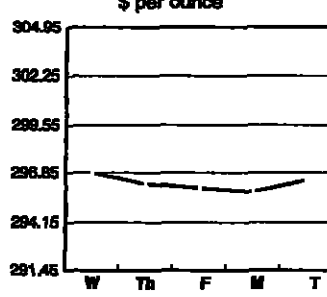
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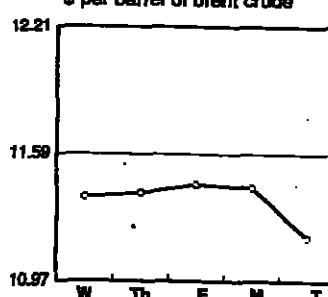
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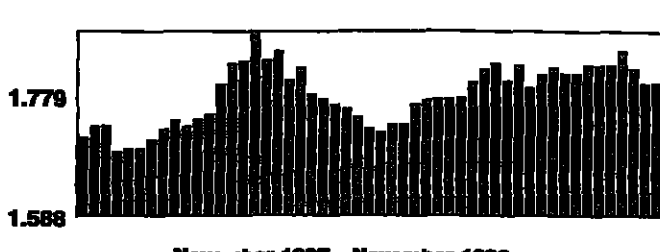
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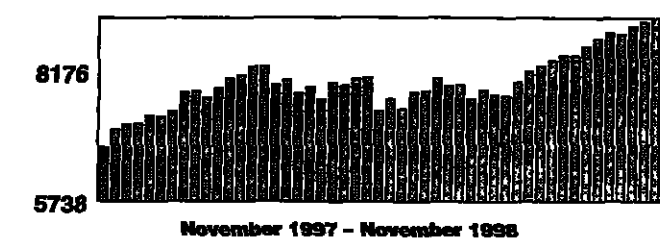
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### Employment Service warns of many more jobless

The unemployment figures for November will show a sharp rise, Employment Service director-general Moshe Dimri warned yesterday. "On the basis of ongoing statistics, thousands of workers are joining the unemployment cycle this month," he said.

Service figures suggest some 20 factories are on the verge of closure, most of them in the North. Dimri said among them they employ thousands, whose jobs have either been terminated or are at serious risk. The problem is further exacerbated by news that job availability is not increasing. In light of the latest macroeconomic indicators, which include a jobless rate upward of 9 percent, Dimri asked that the service be given additional resources to allow for the creation of jobs.

David Ziv Harris

## BIRD: Niche markets can stunt growth

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Local start-ups should focus on long-term growth of infrastructure if they are to succeed, Dov Hersberg, executive director of the BIRD foundation, which matches Israeli start-ups with US investors, said yesterday.

He said he fears that many small companies' focus on providing niche solutions for global players is having a detrimental impact on their growth potential.

"Young Israeli start-ups are focusing too much on niche markets, looking for quick success. It's an easy solution based on the need of global leaders to get access to third parties that will provide specific applications that will suit their own core competency."

The result of this, he said, is that once the companies provide the solution, they are either bought out or disappear.

"In the past, this model has worked, but it can't continue to survive," he said.

"There is an assumption that you can create a company based on a few very talented people coming from the military industries or from university. But you can't plan on being able to supply these ingenious young people forever."

"When start-ups follow this model they are not productive for 30-40 years. Instead, the entrepreneurs who set them up either grow with the outfit that bought them, or go into different fields."

He said that today young companies should try to build their own management and infrastructure, as investors are becoming increasingly selective about the start-ups they choose to work with.

"People want companies that are better built," he said. "It's emerging today that to be successful, even in the first project, it's important to be able to show signs that you can build in the long run. It gives you more points and increases your chances of success."

## Indigo, Hewlett-Packard sign strategic alliance

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Digital print company Indigo yesterday announced a strategic technical alliance with the multinational Hewlett-Packard company to explore future products and markets.

The collaboration, which teams Israel's leading innovator in high-speed digital color printing with the world's largest provider of computing, Internet, and intranet solutions, will combine their respective technologies in new markets.

The agreement is seen as a major endorsement for Indigo, which has been experiencing serious problems over the last three years.

"In an industry that has been moving into camps and alliances, Indigo has the most powerful ally anyone could have," said Benny Landa, Indigo's chairman and CEO. "In the short term, the association with HP is a seal of approval. Everyone wants a win-

ner and when HP decides a company is a good investment that's clearly very positive. In the long term, if cooperation yields products it will lead to [enhanced] financial revenues."

Landa said that the potential market for an Indigo-HP collaboration is huge. "The commercial printing market worldwide is worth some \$300 billion a year and it relies predominantly on mechanical printing. The potential for digital printing is enormous. This is a market that small companies on their own cannot capture."

Joel S. Birnbaum, senior vice president and director of HP laboratories, said: "HP has evaluated the Indigo technology... and concluded that it is superior to current competing technologies with respect to image quality, speed, and cost per page."

The agreement with HP comes toward the end of a busy period for Indigo, which, the Netherland...

## After Netscape purchase: AOL can take on Microsoft

By TED BRIDIS

WASHINGTON (AP) — America Online's purchase of Netscape for \$4.21 billion yesterday cements the company's position as a superpower in the high-tech world, giving it remarkable reach and enough influence to challenge industry giant Microsoft's dominance in key areas.

"The acquisition of Netscape is a big step forward for AOL that will greatly accelerate our business momentum," chairman Steve Case said. "Netscape has played a key role in helping consumers

benefit from the enormous power of the Internet, and we share the same mission."

AOL becomes the world's largest Internet provider, the distributor of Netscape's hugely popular browser software, and the owner of two of the four most popular sites on the Web. Netscape's site alone draws 20 million visitors each month. The other three most popular sites are operated by AOL, Microsoft, and Yahoo!

A Washington public-interest group run by Ralph Nader, the Consumer Project on Technology, promised to protest any AOL-Netscape deal. The group's direc-

tor, Jamie Love, said its opposition in part stems from the market for Internet software — generally split among Netscape and Microsoft — already being too concentrated.

It also objected because many of the nation's hundreds of private Internet providers currently distribute Netscape's browser for licensing fees. Under the deal, those providers would indirectly be funding AOL, among their greatest rivals, by paying it fees for Netscape's software.

The alliance poses new competition for Microsoft, whose own business tactics against Netscape were so aggressive that the gov-

ernment is suing Microsoft for alleged antitrust violations.

Microsoft's Internet software competes against Netscape's, and its Microsoft Network online service rivals AOL, although MSN has been far less successful.

Although AOL considers Microsoft its rival, it agreed in March 1996 to incorporate Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser, not Netscape's, into the software for its 14 million subscribers. In exchange, Microsoft included AOL's software within its dominant Windows operating system. That agreement ends in January.

Analysts were divided whether AOL might jeopardize its placement within Windows by now distributing Netscape's software to its customers. That move could restore Netscape's share of the browser market to its highest levels since Microsoft began its full-court competition.

"It seems to me pretty clear, if this deal happens, that AOL customers will be seeing a very strong marketing of the Netscape browser to them," said Gensler. "If Netscape and AOL get together, AOL and Microsoft's friendship will be cold and somewhat short-lived."



### German stocks slip

A trader gestures while ordering during yesterday's morning session on the Frankfurt stock exchange. Shares slipped amid concern they looked expensive after weeks of gains.

(Reuters)

## Bill would create central bank board

By DAVID ZIV HARRIS

The Knesset Finance Committee is this morning scheduled to discuss a private members' bill which calls for the creation of a board of governors for the Bank of Israel.

The bill, proposed by Avraham Shohat (Labor) and other MKs, was countered by a proposal from the central bank itself, which called for the establish-

ment of a monetary board.

While Likud MKs have already pledged to support Shohat's scheme, the government has committed itself to voting against the program. Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said in April last year.

As far as the central bank is concerned, the monetary board should be part of a wider reform of the Bank of Israel Law, which was passed in 1954.

Frenkel is also expected to discuss the economy in general at the meeting, which precedes by four days a key cabinet meeting on the economy.

The cabinet meeting will center on the possible need to revise the 1999 inflation target, currently set at four percent.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky yesterday spoke at the committee, once again making his opposition to the cen-

tral bank's monetary policy clear.

He is one of those leading the campaign within the cabinet in favor of a board of governors.

"The heavy price Israel has paid in terms of growth and unemployment in order to achieve a pretentious inflation target reflects the need to deal with the central inflation issue with alternative tools and not via high real-terms interest rates," said Sharansky.

## Clal Industries 3rd quarter net surges 230% to NIS 52.8m.

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Clal Industries and Investments yesterday reported that third quarter net profit surged 230 percent to NIS 52.8 million from NIS 16m. a year ago. The holding company attributed the improved results to the successful reorganization process in some of its subsidiaries.

Net profit for the first nine months of the year rose 101% to NIS 201.5m. from NIS 95.9m. a year earlier. Sales of the company's subsidiaries rose to NIS 8.74 billion from NIS 8.41b. The company said the results were affected by

improvements in its main subsidiaries — including Nesher, the cement monopoly jointly held by Clal and Koor Industries, which showed improved profitability.

In addition, ECI Telecom, in which Clal holds a 20% stake, reported last month that third quarter net profit before provision for a one-time charge rose 33% to NIS 171m. Clal's profits were also affected by rising profitability in its textile subsidiaries Kiton and Polgal, an increase in revenues of American Israel Paper Mills and lower losses at Barak, the long distance phone services provider.

General Bank's net drops 48% Israel General Bank yesterday reported that third quarter net profit fell 48.2% to NIS 3.04m.

The bank, which specializes in the areas of private banking and financial markets, attributed the decline to the impact of the consumer price index's calculation method, saying that if this impact was neutralized net income would have grown by 81.3% to NIS 5.49m. Net profit for the first nine months of the year fell 24.5% to NIS 11.7m. from NIS 15.4m.

Provision for doubtful debt fell to NIS 640,000 from NIS 3.5m., while operational income rose 10.3% to NIS 50m. from NIS 45.3m.

## Clal's new strategy bears fruit

By DAN GERSTENFELD

When Rimón Ben-Sahouli entered his job as Clal Industries and Investments president and CEO 18 months ago, he promised to make the conservative holding company more flexible and dynamic.

One of the first promises he made was that he intended to increase Clal's investments in high-tech companies with plans to sell them in the future for a higher price. The announcement stood in clear contrast to Clal's traditional policy of focusing on long-term investments by acquiring control of companies.

The benefits of the new strategy became clear yesterday, when Clal Electronic Industries, a subsidiary of Clal Industries, announced that it completed the sale of its 7.6 percent stake in Gilat Satellite Networks, which

\$20.6m.

The company said it sold its remaining 3.5% stake in Gilat for NIS 83 million. It added that, following the deal, it is expected to record a capital gain of about NIS 44m. Earlier this month, Clal announced that it sold Gilat shares for NIS 88m., a capital gain of NIS 43m.

The stake in Gilat was acquired earlier this year after the company's shares fell some 40% on fears of the possible impact of the global financial turmoil.

Earlier this month, Ben-Sahouli told *The Jerusalem Post* that unlike other financial investments made by the company, Clal was originally interested in keeping its stake in Gilat, but after the share's price more than doubled, the company decided to take a profit.

According to him, the shares were acquired for an average price of \$33.70 and were sold for

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سكدا من الراسل



# Fired Hollywood execs hit jackpot

Tinseltown's multimillion dollar severance packages reek of corporate waste

By MICHAEL A. HILTZIK  
and CLAUDIA ELLER

**HOLLYWOOD** — What's the surest way for top Hollywood executives to get rich quick? Get fired. That's the lesson taught most recently by the case of Frank Biondi Jr., whose ouster this week as chairman and chief executive of Universal Studios is expected to net him a severance package valued at around \$30 million in cash.

For Biondi, it is the second such settlement in the last three years, following a more than \$15m. payout when he was fired from Viacom Inc.

The champion of Hollywood executives to leave a top job with an eye-popping golden handshake remains former talent agent Michael Ovitz, who ended an ill-starred 14-month term as president of Walt Disney Co. with a cash and stock package currently worth about \$130m.

Another dramatic payout is certain to go to former Disney Studios Chairman Jeffrey Katzenberg, who has won a lawsuit entitling him to damages for his 1994 ouster and is now negotiating a settlement that could run to hundreds of millions of dollars.

But dozens of other top-level executives, including operating division heads who would be considered relatively low-ranking officers in most other industries, have carried off seven- or eight-figure severance deals after being terminated.

Even though some of these packages are confidential or difficult to value, it is clear that Hollywood has doled out more than a half-billion dollars in severance to high ranking executives just over the last few years, when a ferocious round of mergers in the

entertainment industry has made top-level management reshufflings even more conspicuous than usual.

To the average working American, this does little to change Hollywood's reputation as a center of greed, frivolity and excess. And for shareholders of the major entertainment companies, lavish severance payments are becoming an increasingly hot issue because of their aura of corporate waste.

Disney's payout to Ovitz, who had been granted a five-year contract and touted as a sterling corporate catch, provoked outbursts from shareholders at the 1997 annual meeting in Anaheim, as well as a shareholder lawsuit that is still winding its way through the courts.

Biondi's severance is certain to tick shareholders of Seagram Co., Universal Studio's Canadian parent. "We'd like management to explain how this benefits us," remarked Tom Gunn, senior vice president of investments at the Ontario (Canada) Municipal Employees Retirement System, the holder of about 4.5 million Seagram shares.

**EXECUTIVE** severance clauses are common in virtually every industry, but several elements set Hollywood apart. For one thing, management talent is in short supply — so executives with proven track records have an exceptional ability to write their own tickets.

"It's a question of supply and demand," says Bertram Fields, one of Hollywood's most powerful attorneys. "Very few people are qualified to run a studio. It's a very short list, and everybody on that list is generally making a lot of money doing something else, so you have to pay a lot to get them."

What rankles compensation experts and shareholder-rights advocates about the richest severance deals is the absence of so-called "mitigation" and "offset" clauses that require the recipient to actively seek new employment and that reduce the payout if he or she finds another comparable job within a reasonable period.

Some observers say that is a serious cost in the entertainment business, where ousted executives often find new employment within months or weeks. In Hollywood it is almost an article of faith that fired executives don't fade away — they just turn up elsewhere.

Biondi had been fired as chief executive at Home Box Office in 1984 before taking a top entertainment job at Coca-Cola and then being hired as Viacom's No. 2.

"Hollywood contracts aren't set up to deal with the fact that it's easy to foresee that the executive is likely to leave before the contract term," says Steven Schulman, an attorney with the firm of Milberg, Weiss, Bershad, Hynes & Lorch, who brought the suit against Disney for the Ovitz severance. "It's quite spendthrift."

A Delaware judge last month rejected Schulman's challenge, but his ruling is being appealed.

But others say the mobility of top executives is exactly what makes severance clauses so important to them.

"I've been at meetings at Universal and CBS where the new head of production starts his first meeting with the words, 'While I am here...,'" says Stephen Unger, managing partner of the worldwide entertainment and communications practice of Heidrick & Struggles, the multinational executive search firm.

Given such a mind-set, Unger says, it is almost inevitable that

"when people negotiate their (employment) deals they spend the most time not on the function of their job, but on what they will get paid if and when they're fired."

**YET** Hollywood sometimes rewards executives more for failure than for success. One celebrated recent example is when ousted Sony Pictures chairman Peter Guber was granted a lucrative production deal at the studio at the same time it was posting a \$3.2 billion loss.

In many cases the risk of failure is even specifically anticipated in an executive's contract.

Ovitz, for example, prenegotiated an exit package guaranteeing him a huge payout if he was forced out of Disney for almost any reason before his term expired — a so-called "nonfault" clause that resembles the "pay or play" deals granted the most prominent stars and directors. The clause guarantees their fees even if they get fired from a production or if the movie gets canceled. Critics such as Schulman say such clauses often have the perverse effect of giving executives an incentive to get themselves fired.

Still, the main factor driving executive severance packages into the stratosphere today is the inclusion of stock options, which have inflated the value of many payouts in the wake of the '90's bull market.

The 3 million Disney stock options Ovitz received in his departure package were at one point worth so much that the entire package was valued at \$200m. Disney stock has declined by 25 percent from its peak, however.

Similarly, the \$32m. package Doug Morris got from Time Warner when he was fired as pres-

ident of Warner Music US in June 1995 — some 80% of it in stock options — is today worth more than \$100m, thanks to a strong run-up in Time Warner stock.

In Hollywood, stock options often work to the advantage of fired executives for a unusual reason. As important as they may be in the movie or music business, some of the best-paid executives are relatively low down in the ranks of the huge corporations they work for.

Thus, a parent company's stock may remain quite buoyant even though its record label or studio may be lagging behind its rivals.

A similar phenomenon helps account for the unparalleled value of Ovitz's severance deal. As Disney president, the former talent agent was criticized less for poor performance than for no performance. During Ovitz's 14 months as the company's putative second-in-command, Disney CEO Michael Eisner continued to run the company as a one-man show (and, shareholders thought, superbly). That kept Disney shares rising and sent the value of Ovitz's options into the stratosphere.

Yet for all the shareholder concern and public misgivings about Hollywood's methods of compensating its successful — and failed — executives, few in the industry see much potential for change, especially as long as those making the deals are concerned that they may need their own golden parachutes.

"That would require a revolution in thinking and a complete revamping of the economics of this industry," says Unger. "One studio can't say, 'We're not going to make these deals.' It would require the people at all six (major) studios to vote against their own personal interests."

(Los Angeles Times)

## THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GILBERT F. W. CASHMAN



Salome Zafir, president of the Paula and Samuel Alkalai prize for excellence in science in recognition of his work in cancer research. The prize, which is awarded annually by the Alkalai Foundation, is considered to be one of the most prestigious awards in medical science.

Salome Zafir has been appointed by Omnitel as head of its projects, development and outsourcing department. Zafir, 47, who has wide-ranging experience in management and computer science, was formerly the manager of Tadiran and the deputy general manager of Computran.

Gabi Dror has been appointed general manager of the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Hotel, Eilat. He replaces Dekon Kethem, who has completed his term of office. Dror, 41, previously managed the Club Inn, Sport and Laguna Hotels — all in Eilat. A Hebrew University alumnus, Dror has a BA in international relations and political science. He studied hotel management at the Haifa Technion.

After 10 years as sales manager for Dankner Constructions and the Marina Tower in Herzliya, Miri Bar-Ner has moved south to take up the position of sales manager for the promotion of Old Jaffa.

Former journalist and photographer Uri Stein has been appointed spokesperson for the Ministry of Industry and Trade. He replaces Hannah Peri, who has been put in charge of the ministry's advertising and promotional unit.

The board of directors of Qualcomm has announced the appointment of Eyal Bar David as international vice president of Qualcomm and head of its Israel research and development center. An electronic engineer by profession, Bar David was one of the founders of Qualcomm Israel and has presided over one of the most dynamic companies in the country.

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## First Pacific takes over Philippine Long Distance

**MANILA** — First Pacific Co., a unit of Indonesia's biggest business group, paid \$750 million to take control of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., capturing three-quarters of the nation's telecommunications market.

The purchase, which took three months to complete, is one of the biggest regional acquisitions by an Asian company since economies slid into recession last year. Its architect, Manuel Pangilinan, was named president of PLDT, replacing Antonio Conjuangco, whose family controlled the company for three decades.

The nation's largest-ever corporate takeover represents a major bet by First Pacific on the Philippines, whose economy is expected to have officially slid into recession during the third quarter. First Pacific, a unit of Indonesia's Salim Group, will now have about four-fifths of its assets in the Philippines, where Pangilinan was born.

"It's done," PLDT board member Antonio Meer said in an interview. "They have taken over control."

The partnership between First Pacific and the 70-year-old phone

company will create a telecommunications behemoth with 2.7 million subscribers to its fixed line and cellular services. ING Barings served as sole advisor to First Pacific in the transaction.

First Pacific paid \$30 billion pesos for a 17.2 percent stake in the company, equivalent to 1,420 pesos per share.

That's a 31 percent premium to yesterday's closing price, in line with expectations.

It holds 5.9 percent directly and an additional 11.3 percent through a majority stake in Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp.,

giving it control over 27.4% of PLDT's shares.

PLDT shares fell 30 pesos to 1,055. First Pacific shares were suspended in Hong Kong.

Pangilinan called the acquisition a "milestone" in First Pacific's transformation from a diversified conglomerate into a company with interests in select Asian companies.

In Hong Kong, First Pacific owns First Pacific Bank and First Pacific Davies, a real-estate concern.

"While we do not see the region's harsh economic conditions lifting any time soon, we believe the timing is right for those with a long-

term perspective to begin the process of re-investing," he said.

First Pacific used cash raised through sales of businesses earlier this year, including a one-time profit of \$634m. from the sale of Hagemeyer, a Dutch car and appliance maker. It has about \$150m. in cash left after the PLDT investment, Pangilinan said.

"Investors like companies that try to build businesses, not just sit on their cash pile," said Philip Tulk, an analyst at Lehman Brothers in Hong Kong.

(Bloomberg)

## MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1998 yield (%)	NIS assets (millions)
FLEXIBLE					
Abi	226.49	224.78	+2.82	+4.80	18.0
Abi Flexible	108.80	108.56	+0.06	+0.00	25.8
Abi Fund	208.82	208.34	+0.48	+0.07	18.3
Abi Growth	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Income	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi International	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Money	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Real Estate	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Short-Term	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Ultra Short-Term	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi World	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund II	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund III	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund IV	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund V	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund VI	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund VII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund VIII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund IX	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund X	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XI	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XIII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XIV	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XV	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XVI	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XVII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XVIII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XIX	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XX	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXI	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXIII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXIV	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXV	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXVI	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXVII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXVIII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXIX	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXX	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXXI	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXXII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXXIII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXXIV	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXXV	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXXVI	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXXVII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXXVIII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XXXIX	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XL	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XLI	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XLII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XLIII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XLIV	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XLV	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XLVI	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XLVII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XLVIII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund XLIX	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund L	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund LI	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
Abi Zero Fund LII	108.56	108.56	+0.00	+0.00	18.3
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## West Ham committing Harry kari

PEOPLE who lean towards conspiracy theories will be interested in the extraordinary events at West Ham this week. Fresh from an excellent 2-0 away win at Derby which saw the team move up to sixth in the Premiership, the club was embroiled in the wrong kind of controversy in the sports pages after a verbal bust-up between manager Harry Redknapp and chief executive Peter Storie.

Redknapp was furious about the proposed sale of Hammers' midfielder Andy Limpey to Leicester City, claiming that Storie had instigated the move behind his back, and was undermining his position as manager. For his part Storie told reporters that Redknapp had indeed known about the sale and that Limpey had to go in order to appease the club's bankers who warned the spiralling wage bill was getting out of hand. Storie dug in deeper by also claiming that Redknapp had wanted to keep quiet about the Eyal Berkovic-John Hartson training ground incident last month.

None of this, of course, has got anything to do with the launch of Redknapp's autobiography, which by the merest of coincidences took place yesterday as the tabloids were having a field day with the feud. In PR terms, the London Evening Standard newspaper was mauling Redknapp - on the very same page of the article, they carried an advertisement "Harry Redknapp signs for Dillons" urging readers to attend a book-signing session in the book store's Oxford Street branch.

The book itself is your run-of-the-mill footballer's life story but Israeli readers will be delighted that Harry thinks very highly of Berkovic "he makes passes other players cannot see" and how impressed he is at the Israeli's punctuality and dedication to training.

Another club hanging its dirty washing out in Blackburn Rovers who find themselves propping up the table after Saturday's 2-0 home defeat to Southampton. The result cost manager Roy Hodgson his job, but the question as to whether he jumped or was pushed remains. Minutes after the game, Hodgson was interviewed and gave no indication that anything was particularly out of order. Half an hour later, after a meeting with chairman Jack Walker, Hodgson was out of a job. Club captain Tim Sherwood, looking shaken, told reporters that the chairman had put a lot of money into the club and was entitled to do what he wanted and by Monday chief executive John Williams admitted that Hodgson was "pushed". Now watch out for the autobiography.

Another manager in trouble is Terry Venables of Crystal Palace who once again is embroiled in the wrong kind of investigation. This time, it concerns one of his

former clubs Portsmouth, with whom he was involved as chairman while coaching the Australian national team. Hampshire police announced over the weekend that they are investigating the club's acquisition of Australian players during the time of their association with Venables. Portsmouth deny that the investigation is linked to Venables.

The Portsmouth affair comes just a week after Palace asked the FA to examine the transfer of two Chinese players after a discrepancy between the fee and the amount the Chinese authorities were supposed to receive.

And on Monday and Tuesday, the Daily Mail alleged possible money going missing over the transfer of Israeli David Amiselman who was signed by Palace over the summer. Club chairman Mark Goldberg said he was going to get to the bottom of the affair after the Mail claimed that Amiselman's Israeli club Maccabi Neveh Ilan claimed they had not received the first instalment of the £800,000 transfer fee. According to the Mail, Amiselman does not actually belong to Neveh Ilan but is in fact represented by a cartel of Israeli businessmen.

REFEREES have been coming in for a lot of controversy lately, but there is sure to be an investigation following official Ken Lynch's extraordinary outburst at Leyton Orient at the weekend. Lynch was in charge of the Orient-Brentford Third Division game and after Brentford conceded two late controversial goals the home fans started singing "two-one to the referee".

Lynch reacted by taking a bow and conducting the singing, his actions prompting Brentford fans to go on the rampage and rip seats out. Brentford chairman-manager Ron Noades, who is reporting Lynch to the Football League, said after the game: "I cannot understand how a referee could walk off the pitch and take a bow. I was standing right next to him when he did it."

There was also controversy at Villa Park on Saturday after Liverpool's fine 4-2 win over Aston Villa. Once again, Stan Collymore was in trouble, deservedly being sent off for two yellow card offences, the first of which left Liverpool defender Steve Harkness in hospital.

The players were embroiled in a row last season after Collymore alleged that Harkness had racially insulted him and Collymore vowed to take revenge. He did so in the form of an ugly, high tackle which on its own should have seen him sent off. He did eventually go after an altercation with Michael Owen. Villa manager John Gregory was reluctant to discuss the Collymore lunge on Harkness, preferring instead to rebuke Owen for having what he called a "baby face off the pitch but a hard act on it".

### London Calling



Mark Rivlin

## Israel hoopsters face tough test against Belarus in Minsk tonight

By ELI GRONER

A depleted national basketball team begins the first of its second round of games in the European Championship qualifying tournament tonight with a road game against Belarus.

Neither Oded Katash nor Doron Sheffer - both of whom are nursing injuries - made the trip to Minsk where the temperatures are bitterly cold at around minus 20 degrees Celsius.

Katash is currently in New York following developments in the NBA lockout, and if that situation is rectified, he might not return to Israel until June.

After the contest, the Israeli squad returns home for games against

Ukraine on Saturday night and Denmark next Wednesday. Sheffer's availability for those games is unclear.

The loss of the starting backcourt means that the bulk of the responsibility will be shouldered by Guy Goodes and Amir Katz, who are expected to start. Goodes may be uncomfortable with Maccabi Tel Aviv this year, but his play on the national squad in the first round of the qualifier was sterling. Katz began to blossom in the national colors under coach Muli Katash, who actually started Katz over Katash in the most recent national team game - a win against England in February. Katz was outstanding in that contest, tallying 25 points on 7-of-10 shooting.

In addition to Goodes and Katz, center Tomer Steinhauser will be called upon to fill the scoring void. Steinhauser should have a much more difficult time against Belarus this time.

The Israelis trounced the Belarusians 95-64 in Tel Aviv November, but this time, Belarus's entire roster is intact. That includes 2.15-meter Alexander Koul - a former teammate of the under-22 national team captain, Roy Eyal, at George Washington University.

Koul was considered at one point a possible NBA lottery pick, but has never lived up to his potential. Another 7-footer who didn't play in November, 22-year-old Yegor Mescheriakov - a current teammate of Eyal's with the Colonials - will be

suiting up tonight as well. While Koul is considered an awesome physical specimen, Mescheriakov is a versatile giant who can shoot and handle the ball surprisingly well.

Expect the Israelis to combat the size disadvantage with a zone defense.

Israel's roster for tonight's game includes: Katz, Goodes, Steinhauser, Nadav Henefeld, Guy Shelef, Yoav Sapar, Barak Peleg, Uri Cohen-Mintz, Amir Mughtari, Papi Turgenan and Meir Tapiro.

The first two teams in each of the five six-team groups advance to the finals in France in 1999 along with the four best third-place clubs. The French hosts and defending champions Yugoslavia have earned an automatic berth.

## UEFA move nearer to new European competition

GENEVA (Reuters) - The governing body of European football outlined its plans yesterday for the new style UEFA Cup competition and all but decided that it would come into effect next season at the same time as a revamped Champions' League.

At an extraordinary general meeting of all its 51 national federations, UEFA recommended the new UEFA Cup, a merger of the existing competition and the Cup Winners' Cup, should be a knockout tournament from start to finish.

Teams eliminated from the Champions' League qualifying competition will, as now, take part. But a further eight Champions' League sides - clubs who finish third in their respective groups and do not

make it past the first round proper, will also enter the UEFA Cup at a later stage.

In all, there will be 131 teams and eight rounds, including a qualifying round and a final.

Although some UEFA federations expressed a preference for an alternative - for a group-based format in order to prize more television money out of the tournament - UEFA sources said the knockout version was certain to be approved at the executive committee meeting next month.

Finishing touches will then be put to the new, 32 team, Champions' League which now appears certain to go ahead as planned despite efforts by the English to have the competition delayed for one season.

## Makinen claims 3rd straight world title as Sainz breaks down

CHELTHAM (AP) - Spain's Carlos Sainz broke down just 300 meters from the finish line of the final stage of Britain's season-ending Network Q Rally yesterday, handing Tommi Makinen a record third straight world title.

Sainz, going for this third world title and his first since 1992, was robbed of the title when the engine in his Toyota caught fire. Sainz was set to finish the race in the fourth place or better he needed to claim the title.

Richard Burns of Britain won the rally. Sainz was left in tears on the roadside as co-driver Luis Moya smashed his crash helmet to the ground in frustration.

The Madrid native entered the season's final rally trailing Tommi Makinen by two points in the season standings. But the Finn - bidding for a record third consecutive world title - slid out of the race on Sunday when he skidded on a patch of oil and hit a concrete pillar.

By not finishing the race, Sainz remained two points behind Makinen in the final season points standings.

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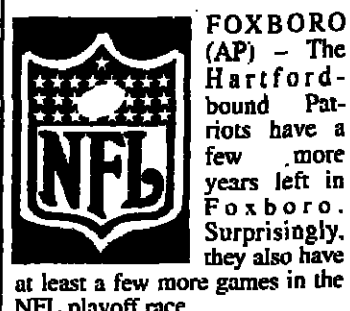
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## Bledsoe rallies Patriots past Dolphins



FOXBORO (AP) — The Patriots have a few more years left in Foxboro. Surprisingly, they also have at least a few more games in the NFL playoff race.

Drew Bledsoe, shaking off a jammed finger, upstaged Dan Marino's late-game heroics with a 25-yard touchdown pass to Shawn Jefferson with 29 seconds left, giving New England a 26-23 win over the Miami Dolphins.

The crowd, supportive despite the prospect of being abandoned in 2001, went wild.

"It was a very emotional win for us with all the controversy about us moving," Bledsoe said. "Hopefully, this will give us some momentum."

New England (6-5) won for just the second time in six games. Miami (7-4), lost for the second time in six games and fell into a three-way tie for the AFC East lead with Buffalo and the New York Jets.

"Every time we have an opportunity to separate ourselves from the rest of the division, we just haven't been able to do it," Marino said.

The winning touchdown capped a 15-play, 80-yard drive in which Bledsoe hurt his finger when he hit a Miami helmet midway through the march. But he continued to throw and even-

tually found Jefferson in the end zone. He also converted two fourth-and-10s during the tough drive.

Karim Abdul-Jabbar had scored on a 4-yard run with 3:22 left, giving Miami a 23-19 lead. Marino, who holds the NFL record with 44 game-winning drives in the fourth quarter and overtime, sparked the comeback with a 24-yard completion to Stanley Pritchett that put the ball at the 4.

Yet the Patriots ended a disconcerting four days with a dramatic finish. The stretch began with last Thursday's tentative agreement to move the team from its bare-bones suburban stadium to Hartford, Connecticut's capital city.

The crowd cheered the Patriots and some fans held signs. "If you build it, we won't come," one said. "It's not too late to save the Patriots. Call your representative," said another.

Adam Vinatieri appeared to have saved the Patriots, with his fourth field goal, a 24-yarder that gave them their first lead, 19-17 with 9:01 left.

But that role was left to Bledsoe after Marino engineered the 48-yard drive ending in Abdul-Jabbar's touchdown.

Bledsoe completed 28-of-54 passes for 423 yards, just three yards less than his career-high. He threw for two touchdowns and two interceptions. Marino was 24-for-38 for 289 yards with two touchdowns passes to Oronde Gadsden and one interception.

MIAMI 7 7 3 6-23  
New England 7 3 8 10-25  
First Quarter: Marino 10 pass from Marino (Marino kick), 8:17. NE-Comes 8 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri kick), 4:27. Second Quarter: Marino 10 pass from Marino (Marino kick), 7:02. NE-FG Vinatieri 25, 1:08. Third Quarter: NE-FG Vinatieri 44, 9:02. NE-FG Marino 21, 4:40. NE-FG Vinatieri 45, 3:22. Fourth Quarter: NE-FG Vinatieri 24, 5:01. NE-Abdul-Jabbar 4 run (pass failed), 5:22. NE-Jefferson 25 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri kick), 2:29. A-56,723.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Buffalo	7	4	0	.636	247	217
Miami	7	4	0	.636	201	158
N.Y. Jets	7	4	0	.636	267	178
New England	6	5	0	.545	237	215
Indianapolis	2	9	0	.182	177	298

CENTRAL	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Jacksonville	8	3	0	.727	277	230
Pittsburgh	7	4	0	.636	288	199
Tennessee	6	5	0	.545	242	237
Baltimore	4	7	0	.364	167	216
Cincinnati	2	9	0	.182	180	287

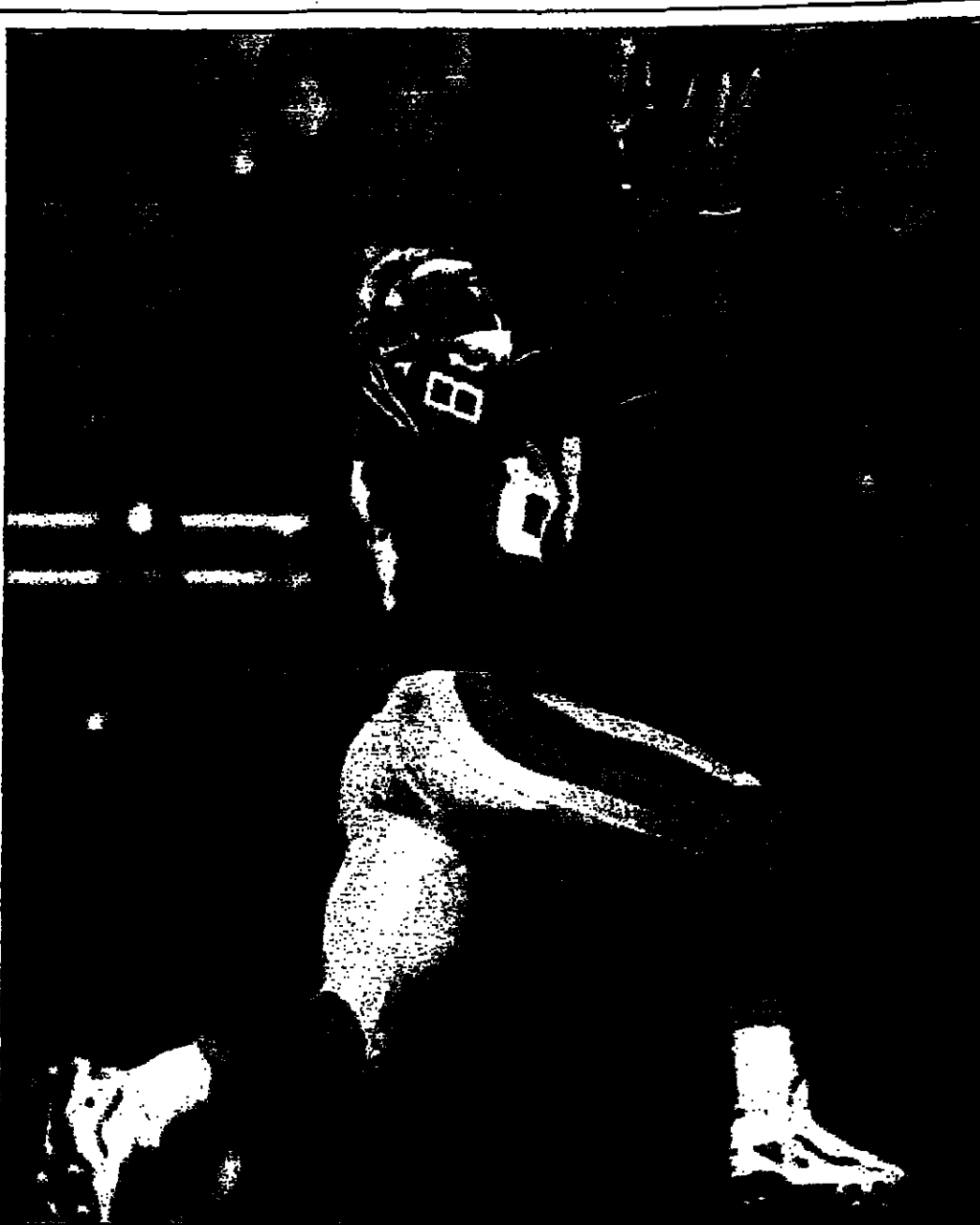
WEST	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Denver	11	0	0	1.000	370	190
Oakland	7	4	0	.636	190	215
San Diego	5	6	0	.455	165	216
Seattle	5	6	0	.455	235	192
Kansas City	4	7	0	.364	204	235

NATIONAL CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Dallas	8	3	0	.727	289	171
Arizona	4	5	0	.455	227	274
N.Y. Giants	4	7	0	.364	189	226
Philadelphia	2	9	0	.182	92	253
Washington	2	9	0	.182	211	318

CENTRAL	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Minnesota	10	1	0	.909	348	184
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	290	224
Denver	4	7	0	.364	225	247
Tampa Bay	4	7	0	.364	192	233
Chicago	3	8	0	.273	180	244

WEST	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Atlanta	9	2	0	.818	304	208
San Francisco	8	3	0	.727	323	237
New Orleans	5	6	0	.455	206	235
St. Louis	3	8	0	.273	197	264
Carolina	2	9	0	.182	215	274

x-clinched playoff spot



THE WINNING MARGIN — WR Shawn Jefferson catches a TD pass from Drew Bledsoe in the final minute to seal New England's 26-23 win. (Reuters)

## Jordan goes to Braves, Alomar with Tribe

NEW YORK (AP) — Brian Jordan went home to Atlanta for a \$40 million, five-year contract. Robert Alomar joined his brother in Cleveland and Kenny Rogers decided he will stay with Oakland, after all.

Meanwhile, Bernie Williams met with the Boston Red Sox. Randy Johnson visited the Texas Rangers. B.J. Surhoff visited the Pittsburgh Pirates and the New York Mets made an offer to third baseman Robin Ventura.

And the Detroit Tigers went to Japan to get a pitcher, agreeing to a \$3m, two-year contract with 40-year-old right-hander Masao Kida.

Jordan, courted by the New York Yankees, Mets and the Baltimore Orioles last week, fills a hole in the Atlanta outfield that opened earlier this month when the Braves sent pitcher Denny Neagle, right fielder Michael Tucker and a minor leaguer to Cincinnati for All-Star second baseman Bret Boone and pitcher Mike Remlinger.

When the Braves met his asking price, Jordan couldn't resist the urge to play in his adopted home. Jordan was with the NFL's Atlanta Falcons from 1989-91 and still lives in suburban Stone Mountain.

"That was the deciding factor. I wanted to be here with my kids. They're at an age where daddy needs to be home."

In the final season of a \$6.5m, two-year contract, he hit .316 with 25 homers for the St. Louis Cardinals, both career highs. He also had 91 RBIs and 17 stolen bases.

"We have a team that, in many ways, is in its prime," Braves president Stan Kasten said. "As long as we're in our prime, we're going to keep pushing away at this rate. When this runs out, we may retool and do something different. But I think we can keep this philosophy for the next 3-to-5 years."

Alomar, a nine-time All-Star, agreed to a four-year contract worth \$30-32m. His addition finally gives the Indians stability at second base, where they have used 15 players since leading Carlos Baerena in 1996. Baerena was the MVP of this year's All-Star game while his brother Sandy, the Indians catcher and a six-time All-Star, was the MVP of the '97 game at Jacobs Field.

Roberto's addition gives the Indians the strongest and flashiest middle infield in baseball. A six-time Gold Glove winner, Alomar will be paired up the middle with shortstop Omar Vizquel, who won his sixth straight Gold Glove this season and has the highest fielding percentage of any shortstop ever.

"It would be worth the price of a ticket just to watch Omar and Robbie turn a double play," Indians general manager John Hart said last week.

In Arlington, former Rangers star Nolan Ryan gave Johnson a tour of The Ballpark.

"We made a very strong offer to Randy, but he's going to get a strong offer from several teams," Rangers owner Tom Hicks said. Johnson already has visited Arizona, Anaheim and the Los Angeles Dodgers, and the Houston Astros want to resign him, too.

In Atlanta, Bernie Williams and his agent met with Red Sox general manager Dan Duquette and manager Jimmy Williams.

Yankees officials discussed their negotiations with Williams and with Albert Belle, another free agent outfielder. New York also is considering whether to trade for Anaheim's Jim Edmonds, Montreal's Rondell White or St. Louis' Ray Lankford.

## Rodman files for annulment

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Basketball bad boy Dennis Rodman filed annulment papers Monday to end his nine-day marriage to television actress and Playboy model Carmen Electra, a spokeswoman for the bride said.

"Carmen and Dennis spoke several days ago and mutually agreed (to end the marriage)," said Electra's publicist, Cindy Guaganti.

The couple married Nov. 14 in Las Vegas, but Rodman's agent, Dwight Manley, immediately expressed misgivings.

"Obviously, anyone that would marry somebody that was intoxicated to the point that they couldn't speak or stand had ulterior motives of some sort," Manley said two days after the wedding.

But the Chicago Bulls star said afterward he was indeed in love and apologized "for any false statements given on my behalf regarding my marriage to Carmen Electra."

## NHL hands down 12-game suspension

NEW YORK (AP) — Los Angeles Kings forward Matt Johnson was suspended for 12 games without pay Monday — the longest NHL suspension since 1994 — for punching New York Rangers defenseman Jeff Beukeboom in the head.

The suspension will cost Johnson about \$95,000 of his \$650,000 salary.

Johnson got a match penalty for punching Beukeboom in the back of the head during a game last Thursday. Beukeboom collapsed to the ice face-first and was still wobbly when he left the ice with help from medical personnel.

The suspension is the longest in the NHL since Tony Granato of the Kings was suspended 15 games for slashing Pittsburgh's Neil Wilkinson in February 1994.

In Monday's games, it was Toronto 3, Calgary 2; Ottawa 4, Vancouver 3; and Dallas 3, San Jose 2.

Calgary 11-0-2  
Toronto 11-1-3  
First Period: 1. Toronto, Thomas 8 (Sundin, Kovalyuk), 8:12 (pp). 2. Calgary, Burns 8 (Housley, Fleury), 9:58 (pp). Second Period: 1. Calgary, Stelmach 6 (Cassels, Housley), 13:54 (pp). 4. Toronto, Dilling 8 (Therrien, Johnson), 15:58 (pp). Third Period: 1. Toronto, Cole 3 (Bedeck, Sundin), 7:16. Shots on goal: Calgary 9-10-28, Toronto 7-10-23. Goals: Calgary, Giguere, Toronto, Joseph, A-15,728.

Vancouver 11-1-3  
Ottawa 2-11-4  
First Period: 1. Ottawa, McEachern 7 (Mark, Prospal), 3:35 (pp). 2. Ottawa, Anisimov 4 (Salo, Murray), 4:06. 3. Vancouver, MacKinnon 7 (Huskins, Aulic), 12:31 (pp). Second Period: 1. Vancouver, Stelmach 4 (Kalt, 2:38. 5. Ottawa, Johnson 5 (Salo, Kravchuk), 7:32 (pp). Third Period: 1. Vancouver, Neukirch 8 (Miesner, MacKinnon), 10:08 (pp). 7. Ottawa, Johnson 9 (Orr), 11:18. Shots on goal: Vancouver 14-10-43, Ottawa 11-10-31. Goals: Vancouver, Snow, Ottawa, Turpin, A-15,530.

San Jose 2-9-3  
Dallas 0-9-3  
First Period: 1. San Jose, Houdler 3 (Morris, Murphy), 2:17 (pp). 2. San Jose, Stern 3 (Melluso, Houdler), 5:29 (pp). Second Period: 1. Dallas, Hatcher 3 (Malchuk, Modano), 2:28. 4. Dallas, Newsum 6 (Lampert, Luchessa), 5:27. 5. Dallas, Marshall 4 (Zubov, Hynes), 12:29. Third Period: None. Shots on goal: San Jose 9-4-18, Dallas 8-9-21. Goals: San Jose, Vernon, Dallas, Belfour, A-18,928.

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	11	6	1	23	44	42
Pittsburgh	9	5	4	22	53	45
Philadelphia	9	6	4	22	50	39
N.Y. Islanders	9	11	0	18	53	55
N.E. Rangers	5	8	6	16	47	52

## Northwest Division

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Central Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	10	8	0	20	57	46
St. Louis	7	5	5	19	47	41
Nashville	7	10	1	15	45	55
Chicago	5	12	3	13	39	70
Northwest Division						
Edmonton	10	8	1	21	60	50
Vancouver	9	10	1	19	62	53
Colorado	8	9	2	18	51	56
Calgary	7	11	2	16	53	59

## Southeast Division

Phoenix	11	5	5	25	47	34
San Jose	11	2	2	24	43	22
San Jose	8	7	4	20	46	42
Los Angeles	6	12	3	15	49	59
San Jose	4	9	5	13	44	47

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	10	8	0	20	57	46
St. Louis	7	5	5	19	47	41
Nashville	7	10	1	15	45	55
Chicago	5	12	3	13	39	70

## Northwest Division

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Edmonton	10	8	1	21	60	50
Vancouver	9	10	1	19	42	53
Colorado	8	9	2	18	51	54
Calgary	7	11	2	16	53	59

## Pacific Division

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Dallas	11	3	3	25	47	34
Phoenix	11	2	2	24	43	22
Anaheim	8	7	4	20	46	42
Los Angeles	6	12	3	15	49	59
San Jose	4	9	5	13	44	47

דיונות אחרונות

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סכנה לאוכלוסיה







## Page 17

# 'DiMaggio has lung cancer, had heart attack'

had a tumor removed from his lung last month.



## Sampras begins quest to break record, Rios loses to Henman

Rios on the other hand simply faded after falling behind a break in the second set and never put in

Rios, who leads the tour with seven titles this

Kafelnikov and Andre Agassi makes his debut against Alex Corretja.

# Wallace rescues\* draw for Rangers

Unsung midfielder Davide Fontolan put the home side ahead

Vigo came from 1-0 down at home to beat Liverpool 3-1.

## Weather comes to England's rescue

Duncan I

them on even though international cricket regulations now permit the use of floodlights in Test matches.

sion to oppose the use of lights even though he said he supported their introduction.

Did not bat: D.Gough, A.Mulvey, A.Fraser  
Bowling: McGrath 18-6-30-1, Kasprudz 8-3-28-0  
(w-1), Fleming 7-2-12-0 (nb-2), MacGill 22-4-51-3,  
M.Waugh 14-0-55-2 (nb-7), Ponting 1-1-0-0.  
Result: Match drawn

# Duncan Disorderly becomes a Geordie

The object of the exercise is to have two really class strikers playing up front for Newcastle United." "I'm sure he'll be a cult figure at Newcastle." As such Ferguson will be

His most notable moments were an FA Cup winners' medal in 1995

## Hap. Haifa enlist new striker

A two-point difference for ASA Jerusalem's women's basketball team last night over Maccabi Ramat Chai advanced the Jerusalemites into

Petah Tikva 97-46 after beating the hapless Petah Tikvans 94-50 on Sunday.

## ASA Jerusalem women hoopsters advance to State Cup semis

all won their return games last night.

On Sunday Ramle had just a seven point lead, winning 54-47.

هكذا من الامم